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**UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES**  
STUDENT AFFAIRS

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS- POLITICAL AND  
SOCIAL ACTION

*People Like Us*, 1986-87, 1989-90

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# People Like Us

No. 1  
July 1986

News, opinions, and features for the C-U gay and lesbian community

## NEWS

HERE WE ARE!

Champaign-Urbana is big enough to have its own little gay and lesbian newspaper and here we are! This is the first edition of People Like Us--a monthly publication by and for the gay and lesbian community.

People Like Us (PLU) will not only try to cover issues of interest to the local gay community, but it will also provide a forum for community members to write about whatever they wish.

Submissions to PLU should be made by the 15th of each month. At present, we request that articles be no longer than two pages, typed and double-spaced. No news item is too short for inclusion.

Since PLU is a volunteer effort, the editors hope to do a minimum of editing. Submissions will be altered only for purposes of grammar, punctuation, and style.

No topic is off limits in PLU. As you can see by this issue, we hope to run the gamut from, for example, the current status of the Gay and Lesbian Illini to one man's reflections on sweat!

Advertising is available in PLU: one-eighth of a page for \$6, one-sixteenth of a page for \$3.

Personals are invited as well. Any advertisements that are sexual in nature must specify safe sex. The cost to run a personal is \$1 per issue. All phone numbers and addresses must be verified.

Names of PLU contributors and staff are sometimes pseudonyms or reduced to initials, due to the lack of civil rights protection for gay people on the campus of the University of Illinois.

This is our chance to have a regular voice within the gay and lesbian community. All communication with PLU should be addressed to:

PLU  
P. O. Box 3332  
Urbana, IL 61801

RW

### INTERIM REPORT TO CHANCELLOR EVERHART

The Campus Wide Task Force on Sexual Orientation presented its Interim Report to Chancellor Thomas Everhart on May 23rd. The chancellor appointed the task force on February 25, 1986, following meetings with members of Gay and Lesbian Illini. The meetings had come about after demonstrations by GLI members outside the Swanlund administration building and a sit-in outside the chancellor's office. The demonstrations were a result of the chancellor's refusal to sign a measure prohibiting discrimination in registered student organizations on the basis of sexual orientation.

The recently released interim report is not very detailed. It informs the chancellor that the task force has been broken into three smaller committees: Policy, Documentation, and Education.

The Policy Committee is in the process of contacting other universities who do and do not have legal protection for individuals on the basis of sexual orientation. This committee is also gathering legal opinion on the various options available to the University of Illinois.

The Documentation Committee is in the process of investigating the "climate" for gays and lesbians on campus. It is also attempting to assess the depth of homophobia within the university community. And, lastly, this committee hopes, if possible, to obtain data on the percentage of gay/lesbian students, staff and faculty on campus.

The Education Committee is to investigate what type of education is needed within the university to address sexual orientation issues. The charge to this committee seems the most murky at present. They hope to obtain some ideas from other universities.

The final report to the chancellor by the Campus Wide Task Force is due on December 23, 1986. At that point, Chancellor Everhart has indicated he will reconsider the question of extending civil rights protections to lesbians and gays on campus, via direct policy. The cities of Champaign and Urbana already have protective ordinances on their books.

RW

### OLD TOWN ARCADE OWNER DIES

Leo Swonk, 52, owner and operator of the Old Town Arcade, died early in the morning on June 10, at his home in Champaign. The Old Town Arcade is an erotica and video store catering primarily to gay men. The future of the establishment had not been determined at press time. Swonk is survived by his lover of several years. Police suspect that his death was self-inflicted, probably caused by an overdose of prescription medication and/or carbon monoxide.

RW

### NEW TEST FOR HTLV-III VIRUS (the antigen, not the antibody)

Abbott Labs, a major U.S. pharmaceutical firm, recently announced it is in the final stages of developing and marketing a new lab test for HTLV-III. Unlike the presently available antibody test, the new procedure is a direct test for the presence of HTLV-III itself.

Preliminary studies have indicated that only 50-70% of persons with a positive antibody test are actually HTLV-III carriers. Until now, the only tests that could distinguish between these two groups were expensive, cumbersome, and available only to research labs. Abbott's test is expected to be available and used on a much wider scale.

This will almost certainly raise more controversy over the appropriate use and potential misuse of HTLV-III testing. It will undoubtedly prove useful in AIDS research and in further safeguarding the nation's blood supply. For persons undergoing voluntary screening, it may also resolve some of the ambiguity resulting from a positive antibody test.

More accurate identification of HTLV-III carriers, how-  
(continued on page 2)

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# OPINION

TAKING "THE TEST" (continued from page 2) *incomplete*

so sure about others, but I suspect that I'd be more nervous having safe sex with an antibody positive person (even though there's really nothing to worry about, of course) than I would with a person who doesn't know his antibody status. I know this is purely psychological, but I also know myself well enough to realize I'd suddenly get hyper about every pin drop of saliva that got within six inches of a hangnail.

And, what if we both turn out positive? It's still safe sex all the way, due to the "multiple exposure" theory, the "co-factors" theory and the "different mutations of the virus" facts.

And, if we're both negative, we still can't be sure "unsafe sex" is safe.

So, here's one man who, despite increasing gay acceptance of the test, plans to hold out. Someday there'll be tests that can really tell me something. Then I'll go find out what the AIDS epidemic might have to say about my lifespan, my danger to others, and my sexual relationships.

This all reminds me of a person I know who submitted to a liver biopsy for unresolved hepatitis B and was told the biopsy revealed "chronic active hepatitis B."

"What's that mean for my life?" he asked.

"Well," the experts said, "you could be looking at death from cirrhosis of the liver within three or four years. On the other hand, you may thrive into old age and die of natural causes. There's really no way to predict what will happen."

Medical information like this is not merely useless. It's an unnecessarily stressful thing to carry around the planet in your back pocket. HTLV-III antibody positivity is just the same!

RW

(Reprinted from RW's regular column in The Windy City Times.)

# features

## GLI REORGANIZES TO FIGHT CHANCELLOR'S VETO

Gay and Lesbian Illini is back in full swing after a reorganization fueled by spontaneous protests over the chancellor's refusal earlier this year to grant civil rights protection to gay men and lesbians on the U of I campus.

Born in 1975, GLI originally was called the Gay Liberation Front. That group was formed to give gay men and lesbians on campus an opportunity to meet and plan activities together and to provide opportunities for gay people to direct educational efforts at heterosexuals.

In the years since then, the group has changed its name twice (to Gay Illini in 1976, and Gay and Lesbian Illini in 1984), founded a switchboard (1976), helped both Champaign and Urbana draft and pass Human Rights Ordinances (1977 and 1975), established a speaker's bureau, and offered many social events.

In 1983, GLI was the first gay/lesbian group to march openly in the Champaign-Urbana 4th of July parade. It has marched every year since (often encountering some not-so-patriotic people along the route), and plans to

do so this year as well. GLI members have also marched in Chicago's Gay Pride parade in recent years.

Currently, GLI is working within the University to gain equal protection for gay men and lesbians by pushing the administration to amend its policy of nondiscrimination, which protects most other minority groups on campus. First proposed by GLI in 1983, a sexual orientation amendment has been approved by faculty committee twice (the second time unanimously), but has both times been turned down by the University chancellor.

After the second refusal and a GLI march and sit-in at his office, Chancellor Thomas Everhart appointed a Campus Wide Task Force on Sexual Orientation to study the problem. The Task Force, headed by Mary Ellen Shanese and Evan Kavanagh, delivered its preliminary report last month, and will make its final report this fall. The report will include recommendations for further action by the administration.

In 1976, the East-Central Illinois Gay/Lesbian Switchboard was founded. Staffed by trained gay and lesbian volunteers, the switchboard (384-8040) provides information and referrals, handling everything from simple requests, such as "Where are the bars in town?" to peer counseling for someone who is having problems with a relationship or coming out, and so on. The switchboard can always use more volunteers. If you can spare a few hours each month, call the above number.

The GLI office, located in Room 270 of the Illini Union, contains the Gay/Lesbian Resource Center, which has books, periodicals and other materials of interest to both gay and non-gay people. Your favorite book titles may be borrowed for two weeks for free, and there are current copies of publications such as The Advocate, Lesbian Connection, The Body Politic, and Off Our Backs.

The GLI speaker's bureau provides gay men and lesbians to speak to classes at the University and at Parkland College, and gives presentations to other groups that have questions about gay and lesbian issues. Its main aim is to dispell myths about gay people by providing "real live" men and women to answer questions that students and others have about gay people and their lives. Volunteers are always needed. Call the GLI office (333-1187) for more information.

Your participation in GLI is invited, and you are welcome to attend its meetings, which are usually held on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m.

While GLI operates many important services, it also arranges a variety of social activities, including occasional parties, and a weekly coffeehouse Friday nights at 8:00 p.m. at McKinley Foundation, 5th and Daniel, Champaign. For more information about any of GLI's programs, call the office or the switchboard.

MF

## SWEAT

I have a little something to get off my chest. It's about sweat, and I don't mean the noble kind that Churchill warned a whole nation about.

I'm talking about sweat, that magic scent of a hot man's unwashed crevices that offends matrons on stuffy buses and brings cologned hankies to noses. It also brings some of us instantly to our knees.

You clinical types might get quarrelsome about now and tell me I don't mean the sweat itself, but the smell of all those germs growing in those dark, cozy spots that must turn somebody on, judging from the number of impassioned references to them in gay erotica.

Fine. You can call it BO. I'll call it sweat.  
(continued on page 4)

# OPINION

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I'm talking about sweat, that magic scent of a hot man's unwashed crevices that offends matrons on stuffy buses and brings cologned hankies to noses. It also brings some of us instantly to our knees.

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(continued on page 4)

# features

SWEAT (continued from page 3)

A few days ago I strolled over to the U of I Library to see if anyone has written about my olfactory interests. And guess what: There are dozens of books about scents and smells and odors, but mostly in relation to spiders, white rats, gerbils, fish, birds--even the Douglas-fir beetle, for chrissakes. Not much about that smell you find in the dark in a backroom bar, or at a beat-up garage forty miles from nowhere--that rush all the fictioneers call manscent.

I was brought up properly, understand. You're not dealing with some hayseed who only put on shoes to attend church. I've lost count of the times my mother lowered her voice and eyes and commented about a man (it was never a woman) with noticeable body odor.

I never gave it much thought, but when I was about 16 and started experimenting with the delights of autoerotism, I noticed how my own glandular vapors set off alarms in my libido. Since all of my male friends religiously overused Ban or Right Guard, I assumed I was a little weird and kept this private ecstasy to myself.

Until I discovered men, that is. In the first few months of sheet rumpling I found myself getting excited by the dark coppery secret lodged in a partner's armpit and gradually grew to savor it, to bury my nose and tongue in it, to revel in its primitive power. Within a few months I was unashamedly asking dates not to apply deodorant before our evening out. Some complied enthusiastically and by the end of a few hours' tumbling became real powerhouses.

I never even bothered nosing around the hygienic hold-outs who insisted on perfuming themselves from elbow to hip. These types predictably spent a large portion of their conversation and income on antiques and matching bathroom accessories and such, but--ever the optimist--I crawled in bed with them anyway. Thanks to our fundamentally incompatible libidos, though, we never had anything memorable to share with the readers of Mandate.

Huff Gym was the only spot here in C-U where I could find musky bodybuilder types who knew how to cultivate a pit more powerful (and a lot safer) than poppers. But they were few and far between.

So I went searching elsewhere for more aromatic partners. Indianapolis had plenty of humpy men who, unfortunately, bathed with disappointing regularity. I found the best sweat in Chicago--especially at the Unicorn and the Bijou--where I connected with a number of swarthy, hairy hunks who ever-so-casually raised their arms as I licked my way up their ribs. And they appreciated my humid offerings as well. These were the men we always read about in the fantasy pages of Honcho: assertive, self-aware, self-aroused.

I guess my point in all this is to bring a vaguely taboo subject into the open and assure others like me that it's OK to come out of the deodorized closet and enjoy even more of the pleasures a man's body can offer--and safely, too. Not everyone we meet will share our same elemental urges, but we're out there, believe me.

Oddly enough, though, I now find myself with a lifemate who's wonderful beyond words but who says sweat doesn't do a thing for him. He's even told me to take a shower once or twice, just when I thought I was ripe enough to drive any fellow crazy with desire.

Since we're both committed to making Us work, however, we've reached a compromise: I shower more often and he doesn't. It's not the Bijou, but it's love.

JS

# calendar

The Champaign-Urbana Men's Chorus will be in joint concert with the Windy City Gay Men's Chorus at Orchestra Hall in Chicago on June 21st. For information, call John at 359-1284.

Gay and Lesbian Illini will again have a contingent in this year's Gay Pride parade in Chicago, the last weekend in June. For information, call Mike at 352-4626.

The Gay and Lesbian Illini will again be marching in this year's 4th of July parade. For information or to participate, ring Mike at 352-4626.

The Gay Community AIDS Project education committee meets every other Tuesday evening. To help out, call Evan at 344-9402. To volunteer for general GCAP work, call 351-AIDS.

RW

You CAN reduce your risk for AIDS —  
Have sex with fewer people.

## GO FOR IT!

- jacking off
- hugging
- massage
- body rubbing
- fantasy
- showering together
- phone sex
- sex toys—no sharing
- kissing—mouth closed
- nibbling
- water sports on unbroken skin

### LESBIAN CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED

PEOPLE LIKE US IS FERVENTLY SEEKING LESBIAN INPUT. WE WANT TO REPRESENT ALL LOCAL GAY PEOPLE. ANY LESBIANS WILLING TO BECOME REGULAR OR ONE-TIME CONTRIBUTORS SHOULD CALL PLU AT 384-8462.

RW

People Like Us is published monthly by PLU, P.O. Box 3332, Urbana, IL 61801.

Editor . . . . .RW News . . . . . MF  
Features . . . . .JS Correspondent . . . . MD

A donation of \$7.50 will allow us to mail you a copy of this publication for one year.

# People Like Us

No. 2  
August 1986

News, opinions, and features for the C-U gay and lesbian community

## NEWS

### BRAVE MARCHERS ONCE AGAIN TACKLE THE CHAMPAIGN-URBANA 4TH OF JULY PARADE

The largest gay and lesbian contingent ever marched in the Champaign-Urbana 4th of July parade this past weekend. About 37 members of Gay and Lesbian Illini and The Grass Roots Group of Second Class Citizens braved the traditional redneck mentality of the parade-watchers to confirm that we are everywhere.

In contrast to past years, most of the abuse hurled at the group this year was verbal in nature. Hecklers shouted, "Got AIDS yet?", "Does your mother know where you are?", and "We love AIDS." At a couple points in the parade rocks and ice were thrown, and the same woman was struck both times. At last year's parade, however, the number of objects (including fireworks) which were thrown was significantly greater.

The relatively less hostile atmosphere of this year's parade was no doubt occasioned by increased police presence. Gay and Lesbian Illini co-coordinator Robert Michael Doyle arranged for the protection by contacting local police departments and the parade committee. Doyle and GLI threatened legal action if any marchers were injured due to willful police negligence.

This year's marchers carried a banner which read "Gay and Lesbian Pride" and signs demanding "Lesbian Rights Now" and "U.S. Courts Out of My Sex Life." The only response to the hecklers by the marchers was to continue chanting: "Two, four, six, eight; one in ten are gay, not straight" and "Three, five, seven, nine; lesbians are mighty fine."

This year's parade participants were pleased with how things went and are already planning participation in the 1987 parade.

MF/RW/RMD

### GAY AND LESBIAN ILLINI MARCH IN CHICAGO

Champaign-Urbana was well-represented in the Big City for the 17th Annual Chicago Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade on June 29. About 20 marchers from the Urbana and Chicago campuses marched under the banner of Gay and Lesbian Illini. It was their sixth year of doing so.

This year's parade included over 130 entries and was viewed by approximately 60,000 spectators, according to The Windy City Times. The traditional route of the parade is from Halsted and Addison Streets (3600N/800W) to Lincoln Park via Broadway and Clark Streets.

The Gay and Lesbian Illini contingent consisted of a decorated car, several banners and a remainder of button-wearers. The group followed the float of the Windy City Gay Chorus, which included a "thank you" to the Champaign-Urbana Men's Chorus for their recent appearance at

Orchestra Hall in Chicago.

A rally in Lincoln Park followed the parade. Entertainment was provided by the Windy City Gay Chorus, the Artemis Singers, the Milwaukee Mixed Gay/Lesbian Chorus, the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, and the Los Angeles Gay Men's Chorus, guests of the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus.

After the choral extravaganza, the rally was addressed by Mayor Harold Washington who asked all gay men and lesbians to write their alderpersons and voice support for the Chicago gay rights bill. Washington also called personally for an end to all discrimination against gay men and lesbians.

MF/RW

### SEX IS STILL ONLY FOR PROCREATION

The US Supreme Court upheld on June 30 a Georgia law making it a crime to commit sodomy. In the 5-4 ruling, the court declared that sodomy (oral and anal intercourse), even in the privacy of one's bedroom, is not constitutionally protected.

The case involved an Atlanta bartender, Michael Hardwick, who was arrested in 1982 for allegedly committing sodomy in his home.

In the majority opinion, Justice Byron White argued that "It is constitutional for legislatures to outlaw some private conduct solely because a majority of people consider it immoral or unacceptable."

Justice Harry Blackmun, in a minority opinion, wrote "The mere fact that certain conduct offends the majority cannot justify invading the houses, hearts, and minds of citizens who choose to lead their lives differently."

Various gay rights activists have said both that the ruling is devastating and that it may further energize the gay community to fight. Heterosexuals, who have been known to commit oral sex, are seemingly affected by the ruling as well. Sodomy is currently illegal in 24 states. Illinois, however, was the first state to decriminalize consensual homosexual relations over a decade ago.

JS/RW

### NEW GAY-ORIENTED BUSINESS

Champaign-Urbana has a new "all-gay" business. Jim Porter, the owner of Jim & Yvonne's Video Arcade, has purchased the Old Town Arcade and is in the process of converting it into "Gay World Video." The Old Town Arcade closed several weeks ago after the apparent suicide of its owner, Leo Swonk.

Porter has big plans for the new business, including the acquisition of 2,000 new video tapes, the installation of a lounge, and the removal of all heterosexual oriented e-

(continued on page 2)

NEW BUSINESS (CONT.)

rotica. Porter is also opening another store on Prospect Avenue. The third store will cater strictly to heterosexuals.

Porter has a long history of meeting the needs of the gay community locally, and has consistently displayed a non-homophobic attitude. The most noticeable pro-gay aspects of Porter's "Jim & Yvonne's Video Arcade" are the mixing together of gay and non-gay erotica, and the inclusion of heart-shaped "glory holes" for those who prefer a non-threatening approach to meeting new people. Jim & Yvonne's has also been very supportive of the Gay Community AIDS Project, willingly distributing safe sex material and general information on AIDS.

Porter has a fourth store in Danville, also called "Jim & Yvonne's." The Danville store has an all-gay theater and also supports the efforts of GCAP.

RW

C-U CHORUS MAKES CHICAGO DEBUT

The Champaign-Urbana Men's Chorus hit the big time June 21 in a debut appearance at Orchestra Hall in Chicago. The C-U chorus was invited by Windy City Gay Chorus Director Richard Garrin, who had heard a tape of the group, and came up with the idea of a joint concert.

The program included the Chicago premiere of a C-U Chorus member Theodor Duda's "When I Was One and Twenty," which is set to a poem by A. E. Housman.

The C-U chorus also sang works by Mozart, Anton Bruckner and Benjamin Britten, and closed with a rousing rendition of "Steam Heat," from the Broadway show The Pajama Game.

The Windy City Gay Chorus performed the Chicago premiere of "When I Heard at the Close of Day," by Christopher Priolo, as well as works by Wagner, Janis Ian and Barry Manilow. The Windy City Slickers, a smaller ensemble of WCGC members, dished up "Please Mr. Postman," "We'll Be Together Again" and "Puttin' on the Ritz." The Slickers are tentatively scheduled to appear in Champaign-Urbana at the November 1 variety show sponsored by the Gay Community AIDS Project.

The Orchestra Hall concert was attended by about 1,800 people and marked the second occasion WCGC has performed there.

The 28-member C-U Men's Chorus was founded by Director Tim Carney and five other people in 1984. It now has 28 members.

(Related article on Features page)

MF/RW

UNIVERSITY TASK FORCE UPDATE

People Like Us has obtained a copy of the confidential report directed to the Campus Wide Task Force on Sexual Orientation by Mr. Don Dripps of the University's College of Law.

Mr. Dripps' primary concern is to address university fears that proposed sexual orientation discrimination protection would allow students disciplined for academic dishonesty (or any other infraction) to claim that the action against them was really motivated only by their

homosexual or bisexual orientation.

Mr. Dripps' conclusion is that while this situation is conceivable, it is rather unlikely, especially if the university at all times acts in good faith. Said Dripps, "A nondiscrimination policy poses small but genuine risks of aggravating the university's liability to individuals who are aggrieved by its decisions. The extent of that risk would vary inversely with the seriousness of the university's commitment to abiding by its own policy.... To the extent that the university complies with a nondiscrimination policy, the risk of damages liability is contingent on erroneous fact-finding in court."

Mr. Dripps' report also established beyond a legal shadow of a doubt that the chancellor does have the right to implement a sexual orientation nondiscrimination policy and that if he does, "individuals will have the legal right to sue in state court for an order compelling compliance with the policy."

In a separate development, unrelated to PLU's obtaining this report, task force head Mary Ellen Shanese reported that the task force is busily adding details and specifics to its findings, which will be presented to Chancellor Everhart in December. PLU had previously stated that the interim report to the chancellor this past May lacked significant detail.

RW

STATE AIDS GROUP MAKES PROGRESS

The AIDS Interdisciplinary Advisory Council will meet for the last time in August and at that time will make a final report to Governor Thompson. The Governor has so far failed to make any public statement about the efforts of the Council. Expected results of the Council's efforts include the establishment within the Illinois Department of Public Health of a permanent AIDS council. This group would have the broad powers of reporting to the legislature or the governor directly. It is also expected that an AIDS Institute will be established at IDPH.

RW

LOCAL N.O.W. 20 YEARS OLD

The Champaign Chapter of the National Organization for Women is 20 years old this summer. A celebration was held June 17 at University Place Christian Church. Among the women honored were Kendra Kett, a U of I graduate student and the head of the Abortion Rights Coalition, and Peggy Phillips. Phillips said pro-choice activists have harder times ahead of them with the recent resignation of Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger. His replacement, Justice William Rehnquist, is, according to NOW president Esther Patt, "the strongest opponent of a woman's right to choose abortion on the Supreme Court."

Donna Busick was also honored at the 20th anniversary celebration, on behalf of the lesbian organization Lavender Prairie Collective.

RW

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\*  
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## RUBBER UPDATE

A new type of condom, aimed at female consumers, may in fact be equally appealing to gay men. "The Mentor Contraceptive" differs from other rubbers in that it contains a 1 1/2 inch band of gentle adhesive to hold it in place. This would theoretically create a fluid-tight seal.

The Mentor Corporation will begin advertising the condom in September in magazines aimed at women. Research indicates that women buy over 40 percent of condoms sold in the United States.

RW

## C-U BUDDIES BUSIER

The Gay Community AIDS Project Buddy Project is currently providing services to four individuals in the area--three persons with AIDS and the mother of one of the PWA's. Lately the buddies have been driving one man to Chicago for experimental drug therapy at the University of Chicago. At least two more cases of AIDS have been unofficially reported in our immediate area in the last month.

RW

## MORE RISKS FOR DRUG USERS: HTLV-I AND HTLV-II

Cancer researchers now say drug abusers, considered at high risk for AIDS, also face greater danger of infection by two AIDS-related viruses linked to leukemia, according to the Associated Press.

The viruses, HTLV-I and HTLV-II, appear much more often in those who inject heroin and cocaine than in the general population.

Research spokesperson Dr. Marjorie Robert-Guroff says the situation needs to be monitored due to concerns for the protection of the nation's blood supply, but she said, "I don't think it's time yet to screen (all donated blood) for HTLV-I and II exposure."

These two additional HTLV viruses are spread in the same way as HTLV-III, a major factor in the development of AIDS.

In recent blood tests on IV drug users in Queens, New York, 18 percent of the users showed antibodies for HTLV-II. Scientists believe HTLV-II suppresses the immune system and may cause leukemia or blood cancer. Nine percent of the drug users had antibodies for HTLV-I. HTLV-I is linked to adult T-cell leukemia.

RW

## BLOOD SUPPLY NOT 100% FREE OF HTLV-III

Someone has gotten AIDS from a blood transfusion for the first time since blood began being tested for the HTLV-III antibody. The donor who passed on the virus was apparently exposed to HTLV-III so soon before donating that he did not have time to develop antibodies. The incident occurred in Colorado and the donor believed he acquired HTLV-III from a homosexual experience.

Nonetheless, the Centers for Disease Control say that the chance of currently being exposed to HTLV-III from a blood transfusion is less than one in 100,000 and according to CDC AIDS specialist Dr. Harold Jaffe, "Concern about AIDS shouldn't enter into the decision about surgery or any other reason to receive blood."

The CDC continues to recommend that men who have had any homosexual contact since 1977 should refrain from donating blood.

RW

## RAPID PROGRESS IN VACCINE RESEARCH

Bristol-Meyers, a large U.S. pharmaceutical firm, recently announced that an HTLV-III vaccine may be ready for testing in humans by the end of this year. Research teams have succeeded in isolating and introducing the HTLV-III envelope gene into vaccinia, the virus used for smallpox vaccination. Tests have already shown that the recombinant vaccine will produce HTLV-III antibodies in lab animals. Further trials are necessary to determine whether the vaccine will produce antibodies in humans, and how well those antibodies will protect persons from HTLV-III.

In another related development, a research team from Harvard reported isolating a new virus, HTLV-IV, from persons studied in Senegal, Africa. Available evidence suggests that HTLV-IV is widespread in Senegal, but does not appear to cause symptoms or disease in infected persons. Senegal has no reported cases of AIDS, which has led to speculation that the antibodies produced in response to infection with HTLV-IV may protect persons from HTLV-III.

BF

# Opinion

## THOUGHTS ON THE POSSIBLE AIDS VACCINE

Now that an HTLV-III vaccine is on the way, happy days are here again, right? Wrong!

First of all, nobody knows if the vaccinia prototype will produce protective antibodies in humans or not. Even if it does, it's going to be a difficult vaccine to test and bring to market. The ideal subject for experimental trials is a high-risk antibody negative person who's still practicing unsafe sex. Of course, this particular sub-species is a rapidly vanishing breed. Seroconversion among high risk, antibody negative persons who practice safe (or possibly safe) sex is still going on, but presumably at a much lower rate than before.

As a result, vaccine trials will have to recruit much larger study groups and follow them for a longer period of time to demonstrate statistically significant results. This is not an insurmountable obstacle, but it could cause a big delay in getting FDA approval for an effective vaccine.

The second big problem is that before you can get the vaccine, you'll probably have to take the screening tests that everyone has decided not to get. There's no point in paying for the vaccine and risking any potential side effects if you've already been exposed. Furthermore, the vaccinia virus is known to be hazardous to immunocompromised persons, which includes people with AIDS, ARC, and quite possibly asymptomatic HTLV-III carriers.

Another problem: Suppose the well-intentioned but misguided people in Public Health succeed in eliminating anonymous HTLV-III screening? Introducing a vaccine under these circumstances would quickly lead to a complete, nationwide registry of HTLV-III carriers. Or would it? Faced with this prospect, high risk groups might well choose to avoid this vaccine altogether.

(Continued on page 5)

# Gay World Video



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## AIDS VACCINE (CONT.)

And another thing: Suppose a vaccine becomes available before an effective drug treatment for AIDS? Once HTLV-III is "contained", how much more will this country be willing to spend to keep HTLV-III carriers from going on to develop AIDS? Or, in the words of one person who called into a local talk show last fall, why not just let the whole problem "die out"?

None of this is intended to discount the extraordinary progress the people wearing the lab coats have made recently. Vaccine research is a lot further along right now than we had any right to expect a few years ago. Testing and introducing a vaccine for HTLV-III, however, is going to raise a whole new round of problems that research and public health officials have yet to acknowledge.

BF

## SAFE BLOOD SUPPLY CAN'T BE LEFT UP TO ANTIBODY TEST ALONE

Some gay men are still donating blood during blood drives. It is important that people in high risk groups for AIDS voluntarily refrain from donating blood because the HTLV-III antibody test, with which the blood is screened, is not 100% accurate. Blood banks currently recommend that any male who has had sexual contact with another male since 1977 refrain from blood donation. These are very stringent guidelines, but they do cover all the bases.

One of the problems people face is pressure from employers or social organizations to donate blood. There are many legitimate ways to be excluded from donating blood and someone who knows he or she shouldn't donate because of sexual contact could consider coming up with an "excuse." For example, anyone who has ever had Hepatitis B is excluded from blood donation; this includes many gay people. There are other guidelines that could exclude an individual from blood donation, and a closeted gay man should consider a false alibi over the more serious wrong of going ahead and donating blood.

PLU Editorial Board

## AIDS NOT OUR ONLY HEALTH CRISIS

During the current AIDS crisis, most people seem to have forgotten about an equally serious gay health problem--Hepatitis B. In fact, Hepatitis B kills more people every year than the total number of people who have died from AIDS related complications.

One of the reasons we don't take Hepatitis B seriously enough is that 90 percent of those who contract it have a full recovery within six months. Ten percent, however, go on to develop chronic infection and up to thirty percent of this group will die of cirrhosis of the liver or liver cancer.

There is one very big difference, however, between the Hepatitis B epidemic and the AIDS crisis: THERE IS A VACCINE FOR HEPATITIS B. The vaccine requires three visits to your doctor over a period of six months and usually costs in the neighborhood of 100 dollars.

But, when you consider that many people exposed to HTLV-III never get AIDS and when you consider that a significant percentage of those exposed to Hepatitis B face life-threatening complications, shouldn't we in fact be taking Hepatitis B as seriously as we do AIDS?

The vaccine is widely available in the community, includ-

ing at McKinley Student Health Service. Let's be comprehensive in protecting our health!

PLU Editorial Board

## HOMOPHOBIA ON THE QUAD

Gay people took another slap in the face recently with the sale of "Bo has AIDS" buttons on the U of I campus. "Bo" is the University of Michigan football coach. This sort of homophobia and insensitivity is hard to fight. Perhaps the best (and bravest) response is to directly approach the button seller and express yourself. Incidents like this serve to remind us of the many battles we still have to fight.

PLU Editorial Board

## IN DEFENSE OF OCCASIONAL SEGREGATION

As we mentioned in our last issue, the University of Illinois' giant PLATO computer system includes a gay notes file. I recently commented, offhandedly, in the file, that our local gay bar seems to be getting overrun by heterosexuals who admire the excellent sound system.

This comment unleashed a barrage of politically-correct criticism about my being a separatist or segregationist.

I tried to defend myself. I said that when I'm walking around campus and I see someone who catches my eye, I then find myself having to wonder if he's gay. When I go into a gay bar, on the other hand, I continued, I can assume the people therein are gay. This is sometimes nice, I asserted--not having to wonder. It's like coming home to the frat house, a fraternity with chapters in every city of the world.

My filemates were not convinced. The best statement of their position that segregated bars need not exist involves the idea that the extinction of gay bars--and other such segregated establishments--will be a great evolutionary step forward. We have, the argument goes, done a good job of educating our local community about who and what we are and, as a result, they have no objections to partying with us. If Chester Street has the best sound system in town, then that's the place to dance. And, how grand that no one minds dancing beside gay people.

This is a good, positive, even wonderful scenario. Men and women dancing. Women and women dancing. Men and men dancing. It is what we're fighting for after all. It is what Stonewall (the myth and the reality) is all about. And finally it appears that for a large number of people in Champaign, Illinois, sexual orientation has become precisely the utter irrelevancy it should be. We are left with just humans, minus labels, categories, and prejudices.

I'm willing to suspend my skepticism enough to concede that this whole wonderful scenario may indeed be what is happening in this somewhat leftish university town.

But, even in all its wonderfulness, it still leaves me with a problem. How do I know if the well-chiseled mammal dancing out there is someone I should try to get to know better or not? C. Street is a big bar, full of people. If I don't walk up to him and say "Hi" it could take weeks for our paths to cross naturally. As it is, however, I can only see that he is dancing alone, or with his friend Patty. Or, as it even sometimes happens, he

(Continued on page 6)

## SEGREGATION (CONT.)

is dancing with another man--a gay friend--but is straight himself. I have in fact danced with straight buddies at Chester Street.

With all these possible combinations, the rather rough process of meeting new men is just complicated further. It is therefore, as I argued with my computer pals, nice sometimes to go to a gay bar. Frat boys, after all, hang out in frat houses. Mormons, after all, go to Mormon churches, not Catholic ones. Democrats work through the local Democratic headquarters, not the Republican one. And, gay people meet each other, quite often, in gay bars, clubs, parties, choruses, canoe trips. Why should liberation and societal acceptance deprive us of our frat house?

"Well," the anti-separatists shoot back, "it all depends on whether you want to live a gay life or a life in which you just happen to be gay." "Very good point," I admit. We all know people for whom the visible subculture becomes their entire life. This is particularly easy to observe in the Big City, where there's a group of folks who cruise Broadway by day and Halsted by night. At home, they listen to Garland and Streisand, in an All American Boy t-shirt and 501 button fly jeans, and worship Dynasty. Weekends are for the Rocks and dinner out with gay friends at a gay restaurant in a gay neighborhood. Any leftover time is spent memorizing the lyrics to this week's top ten Billboard dance chart songs.

For this person, sexual orientation has become an entire self-identity. If he visits a new city, he does it with Damron's guide in his right hand. And, if, god forbid, work or family or mere chance throws him into some hopelessly heterosexual situation, he simply doesn't know if he is going to survive the evening. If this is what separatism is all about, then I don't want any part of it either. It's almost like some Christian who can't open his mouth without talking about Jesus.

But, I really don't think that is what I'm arguing for. To hang on to the religious analogy a bit longer, I'm merely arguing that Episcopalians rightly need and deserve to have Episcopalian churches where they can go and be Episcopalian and know that everyone else is Episcopalian also. They share a tradition and a set of presuppositions about life. Gay people also, like Mormons and Socialists and frat boys and yuppies and lawyers and Jews and Korean-Americans, need and deserve to have places where they can go and share their commonality, places where they can be with like-minded people with similar experiences.

So, while I do, of course, think it is just wonderful that the "straight" people here in C-U are making admirable progress in fighting their inbred homophobia, I miss having a place where I can be just with my brothers. The thing that makes us one is almost more basic than the common denominator of other groups who sometimes hang out only with their own kind.

RW

(Reprinted from RW's regular column in The Windy City Times.)

## features

FAME! I WANT TO LIVE FOREVER. . .

What a feeling! Walking off the stage of Orchestra Hall, having just sung my little heart out, smiling as much as

I could, and doing my best not to look like I was nervous. The basement hallway through which we walked back to our dressing area was lined with smiling, applauding members of the Windy City Gay Chorus. WHAT A RUSH!

How did I ever find myself in Chicago with 23 other men from C-U singing in front of 1,800 people at a place with the reputation of Orchestra Hall? First of all, I enjoy singing, so 2 1/2 years ago I found myself at the organizational meeting of the Champaign-Urbana Men's Chorus. As the chorus grew, I really came to value the experience of performing with my gay brothers. It brings about a sense of camaraderie and friendship that one never finds in a bar setting or at a social function. The chorus also helped me strengthen my positive feelings about myself and enabled me to be more comfortable coming out on a larger scale.

For those of you who happen to be interested in singing, I recommend the C-U Men's Chorus. It's a great opportunity to do something creative, meet new people (in C-U as well as other cities), and develop some terrific friendships. And, there are no auditions! If you want to sing, you're in.

If you're not a singer, we hope to see you at all of our performances. Believe me, whether you are involved or not--the men's chorus is a real asset to our local community.

JC

### FAMILY

Quick, what's the first thing you think of when I say "Cleveland"? Dirt, dinge, rotting factories and a river that catches fire, right? Wrong!

My brother and I found ourselves in Cleveland last month (we had to take grandma home!). After they both went to bed, I decided to investigate a gay bar I had visited before. This bar is a very strange case. It is in a working class (mostly Slavic and Italian) neighborhood--sort of like the southwest side of Chicago, the last place you'd think to find a gay bar.

But there it is: "Over the Rainbow," and its attached restaurant "The Other Side of the Rainbow," at 95th and Detroit Avenue on the city's west side.

I walked in, not expecting many people on a Tuesday night, but there were 30 or 40 sitting around a rectangular shaped bar, laughing, talking and having a good time. Certainly not your typical scene, where all the pretty boys are into "S & M" (Standing and Modeling).

It was a warm atmosphere for a stranger who had gotten lost coming from the freeway (grandmas always seem to live in the burbs, don't they?). I sat down and had a beer, and soon struck up a conversation with a nice, young, Italian guy. His name was Tony and he was the cook at the restaurant.

It struck me while we were talking that I had hardly ever sat down in a bar and had a nice, friendly conversation with a stranger. It wasn't a high pressure cruise, but more like I lived just around the corner on 96th Street and always stopped by for a beer after dinner. Family.

Gay people are lucky in that we have a built-in extended family that reaches around the globe. When I was at "Over the Rainbow," it seemed I was just one of the gang.

(Continued on page 7)

FAMILY (CONT.)

There were things I talked about with this stranger that I could just as well have been talking about with my best friend here in C-U. It was a warm, caring, almost intimate sort of place.

It's too bad more places aren't like "Over the Rainbow," where I can just go have a drink, be with friends, and be myself. The family is everywhere, but in many cities we just haven't yet found a public home. I can only hope Clevelanders aren't going to be the only ones to escape Kansas.

MF

# reviews

## SAFE SEX/SAFE LOVE

The Gay Community AIDS project has acquired a safe sex video--"Chance of a Lifetime"--which it plans to incorporate into its continuing education efforts. The film, produced by The Gay Men's Health Crisis of New York, is a 42-minute, graphic, no-holds-barred exhibit of just how memorable not exchanging body fluids can be. In the first scene, two "stereotypical gay men" court each other and end up breaking their vow of monogamy to their VCR's. The scene is a bit contrived but the fears and anxieties it portrays are no doubt very real.

The second scene finds us in a tough guy, he-man's bar where a leather-clad, archetypal, don't-fuck-with-me stud (who makes lighting a cigarette into an art form) pursues a long-haired muscle boy in a collar. When they finally make it to bed, and the bondage and wrestling wind down, the stud ends up on the bottom with a well stuffed rubber appropriately placed.

It is the final scene of "Chance of a Lifetime" that is the most important, however. A person with AIDS and his lover romp, play and make love poolside. Since many of us still think of PWAs as sick, helpless people, this scene says much more than is visible on the immediate surface.

"Chance of a Lifetime" can be obtained from GCAP for viewing on your home VHS-format VCR. A donation is requested. As always, GCAP can be reached at 351-AIDS.

RW

# calendar

## GCAP FUNDRAISERS

Don't forget to clean out your closets and warm up your horns for the upcoming GAY COMMUNITY AIDS PROJECT fundraisers. The First Annual GCAP Rummage Sale is Wednesday, August 27 at McKinley Foundation. Donated items may be dropped off after August 1st in Jerry's garage. Call 328-1670 for details.

November 1st is the date for the first annual GCAP variety show. This star-studded extravaganza will be held in Smith Music Hall, 805 South Mathews, Urbana, and will feature members of the Windy City Gay Men's Chorus and numerous local celebs. If you possess even a moderate

amount of talent, volunteer to entertain the masses. Call 384-8462 for more information.

Tickets are available in advance from the Gay Community AIDS Project or by mailing in the form below.

RW

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* * * * *
*
* Name(s) _____
*
* Enclosed is my check in the amount of $ _____
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* for _____ ticket(s) at $5 each to the November 1
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* Gay Community AIDS Project yet-to-be-named fund-
*
* raiser variety show. I understand my name will be
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* Mail to: GCAP, Box 713, Champaign, IL 61820.
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People Like Us can be picked up at these locations: Chester Street, Jim & Yvonne's Video Arcade, Gay World Video (formerly Old Town Arcade), Little Professor Book Center, Horizon Bookstore, Gay & Lesbian Illini office, McKinley Foundation, and Nature's Table. If you'd like your organization or business to be a distribution point for People Like Us, write to PLU, Box 3332, Urbana, IL 61801, or call 384-8462.

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# People Like Us

No. 3  
September 1986

News, opinions, and features for the C-U gay and lesbian community

WELCOME BACK TO C-U, EVERYBODY. WHILE YOU WERE GONE, CHAMPAIGN-URBANA GOT ITS VERY OWN GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSPAPER. THIS IS ISSUE THREE. ISSUES ONE AND TWO ARE AVAILABLE FOR 50 CENTS EACH FROM PEOPLE LIKE US, P.O. BOX 3332, URBANA, IL 61801. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME, ADVERTISEMENTS ARE INVITED, AND SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE (SEE INFORMATION ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE). ALSO, SEE THE OPINIONS PAGE FOR INFORMATION ON A NEW GAY MEETING PLACE!

## news

### GLI READY FOR STUDENTS' ARRIVAL

Gay and Lesbian Illini is gearing up to welcome all new and returning gay men and lesbians to C-U. A new member orientation meeting and party will be held Friday, September 5, at 7:30 pm in Illini Union Room 322. GLI will provide details at that time on their numerous local services, including the switchboard, coffeehouses, Gay Awareness Week, speaker's bureau, and the ongoing fight to attain legal and civil rights for gay people on the U of I campus (the rights of gay people are already protected within the city boundaries of Champaign and Urbana).

GLI will continue to have regular meetings on Sundays at 4:00 in the GLI office in the Union, and coffeehouses will be held every Friday evening at 8:00 at McKinley Foundation, 5th & Daniel, Champaign. All GLI activities are open to students and non-students alike.

MF,RW

### NATIONWIDE PROTESTS

Protests have been staged nationwide in the aftermath of the recent Supreme Court sodomy decision. The largest have been in New York, including one July 4th in which 6,000 people marched from Greenwich Village to Battery Park and in which PLU writers RW and JS participated. The protest was planned to coincide with Liberty Weekend events. Gay rights activists in Washington, San Francisco, Cincinnati and Dallas also took to the streets.

Many gay leaders have said the Supreme Court decision had and will continue to have the effect of bringing more gay people out as activists. To be told that making love is criminal, they say, ought to function as a solid last straw.

RW

### LESBIAN VIDEOS, REMODELING

Renovation continues at Gay World Video, formerly the Old Town Arcade. Jim & Yvonne's Video Arcade owner Jim Porter bought the Old Town Arcade earlier this summer after the apparent suicide of its owner, Leo Swonk. Porter, when finished, promises a lounge, 2,000 new video tapes (including lesbian titles) and continued support of AIDS efforts.

JS

### THE NEVER-ENDING STORY

Longtime local gay activist Professor Richard Mohr of the University's Department of Philosophy, back from sabbati-

cal, has provided some valuable input to the Campuswide Task Force on Sexual Orientation. In a ten-page (single-spaced) letter to task force chair Mary Ellen Shanese, Mohr took on Chancellor Thomas Everhart in the game of logic. Mohr's letter, far too long to reprint here, tackles point-by-point the reasons the chancellor invoked in failing last January to provide minimal and limited civil rights protection to gay men and lesbians on campus.

Mohr begins by exhorting the task force to "face up to the unpleasant chore of recognizing that the chancellor has acted in a bigoted manner. His treatment of gays is bigoted not because his 'arguments' for his veto are bad ones (though they are), but because they are not intellectually honest; they are rationalizations, which slip below minimum standards of evidence and argument which all would assume of themselves and require of others."

Mohr also asks the task force to call for "an apology from the chancellor--a public statement on his part that he was wrong, that he was motivated by prejudice, that he has contributed to the stigmatization of gays and that he is sorry." He further requests that the task force "go on record as having approved the sit-in at the chancellor's office (last January) and call for similar actions in the future...."

Among the specific issues Mohr addresses in depth are the concerns over gay roommates and gay fraternity/sorority members, and the chancellor's fears that sexual orientation protection may cause the University to appear at odds with state and local laws. In Mohr's thinking, both these issues emerge as lacking validity. He points out that roommates fall more in the realm of social efficiency than intimacy. And, he points out that legal facts, not "appearances," should be the grounds for decisions.

Mohr ends his letter to Ms. Shanese by detailing some things the University can do for gay people prior to the sticky issue of dealing with the Board of Trustees. These include insisting that departments "as a part of their procedural affirmative action statements in advertising for positions include a statement encouraging gays and lesbians to apply," and the including of "gay partners under University benefit plans."

Finally, since the chancellor stressed the need for education on gay issues at the University, Mohr suggests that the University set up a gay studies program. "Is (the chancellor)," he asks, "willing to show good faith here by putting money where his mouth is?"

Mohr's fear is that the "chancellor under political pressures will probably sign something like the original proposal of the Conference on Conduct Governance and all the really important gay issues that need to be addressed by the University will, if addressed at all, simply be

(Continued on page 3)







## HOT FILM (CONTINUED)

asked them if they still had the old 8mm film. They didn't, but it could be found included in a big new video tape package for about \$35.00. I don't have a video recorder, however, and it seemed just a tad-bit extreme to buy one just for a single porn flick. Alas, since there is a God, however, a few days later a letter arrived from Colt Studios informing me they had found three copies of the original film and that I could have one for \$15.00. I called immediately with my VISA card number and pleaded for rush delivery.

My next call was to my parents to tell them I had to borrow the old movie projector from the bowels of the basement. This request turned into setback number two: the projector had met its match in a recent flood.

To this day, therefore, I have an 8mm film of "Prowlers" sitting on my bookshelf--regular 8, not super 8. I thought I had perhaps solved the intolerable dilemma when I learned that the library loans out projectors but, since there is no God, they only have super 8 projectors. Regular 8 projectors went the way of bellbottom trousers, I guess.

Oh, well, it really doesn't matter since I can pretty much play the film in my head. I can even recreate the graininess of the print as the camera zooms in on Mark Ryder looking very, very intense, and scratching his blue-collar nubs. Grainy 8 millimeter is by far the most superb medium for this flawlessly shot shot.

I know, these two fellows have dreams and emotions and personalities and interesting lives, but, let's face it, when they scratch their balls, take a swig from the bottle, and rub nubs, who cares?

Does anybody have a regular 8 movie projector for sale cheap?

RW

(Reprinted with permission from RW's regular column in The Windy City Times.)

# Letters

To the Editor:

Being a heterosexual, I have always prided myself on my ability to rise above society's teachings that a different sexual orientation is a wrong orientation. I would gladly march alongside gays and lesbians to relieve the repression that's been blindly and ignorantly laid upon them. I have always believed they were fighting for the same thing that I was--a society where all can be accepted. Due to a recent change of employment, I now have much more exposure to gay people (my fellow fighters for equality) and I have been faced with some harsh realities. What I seek is a healthy society, devoid of labels like male/female or homosexual/heterosexual, where people are simply people in a wide continuum. Much to my dismay, I now feel alone in my search. My feelings of brotherhood are gone. Equality is not what my new gay acquaintances seem to seek but instead yet another label--another niche to fill, that also will not allow for others who are different.

Sadly, I am not accepted by gays as just a person with ideas, feelings, and values. To the women I am an animal to be avoided at all costs. To the men I am a straight piece of meat to be had and turned on to the "appropriate" lifestyle. Isn't it ironic that their treatment of me is exactly what they fight to be freed

from themselves? Those that I speak of would gladly tear me from the wife that I love just to "straighten me out."

Is there anyone out there who doesn't care what label has been rudely branded on me? Is there anyone who can treat me as just a person? What a pathetic society we live in when all we see in each other is what is going on between our legs.

Jeff

To the Editor:

I read with great interest the August edition of People Like Us. I think it is high time that Champaign-Urbana had a gay/lesbian newsletter; and I admire those of you who are involved.

I would like to make a few comments on the article "In Defense of Occasional Segregation." I think that RW's assessment of the complexities of hanging out in mixed bars is accurate and effective. I can remember when The Bar first opened and was mainly frequented by a gay clientele. I have also had the chance to observe a few smaller gay clubs come and go in the C-U area. Like RW, I like the idea of a place to "be among my own." I don't really care if heterosexuals frequent gay bars regularly on some nights, but it's a little disconcerting to be surrounded by heterosexual couples on most any night I go out. It makes me think, "I certainly would not be welcome in heterosexual bars in town--especially if I hit the dance floor with my lover and twenty of my gay friends." Just think how these very same "liberated" people would react should my gay friends and I show up at a campus club and "take over" the dance floor on one of their "dollar Bud" nights.

Yes, our local bar situation may be changing the attitudes of heterosexuals, but how far are those attitudes changed once they exit the club and return to their dorms, fraternities and apartments? I've even had the experience of having the very same couples who were dancing beside me scream "Faggot" out their car windows while exiting the parking lot. Maybe a sign could be put in gay bar windows on certain nights that reads: Gay Night. Then everyone can make their decisions and take it from there.

Now I realize a bar is a business and not a political organization, so it is doubtful that they could adopt such a policy. Maybe it's up to gay people to alter the situation. Sometimes even the most minor shift in image can change how one is perceived. For example, one summer evening before going out, I pinned a button on my shirt that said: "Gay Rights Now." I made about ten new friends and the straight men made no misleading eye contact with me.

Along similar lines, maybe gay people who want to be recognized by their own could wear lambda pins--or some other identifying symbol. If enough of us did it, then we'd be able to collect together and there would be no confusion about who wanted to be identified as gay and who didn't. Just an idea. But I think it might work.

In conclusion, heterosexuals dominate most aspects of my life: my school, my work, my apartment complex, etc. Like RW, I don't want to be professionally gay. But I would like to have two or three hours a week in which I can be among people (as RW states) "with similar experiences." Remember, when push comes to shove we can only count on our fellow brothers and sisters for support. And in a town the size of Champaign, it's difficult to know who these people are unless we have a common social meeting ground. RW is right. Gay bars are a good idea.

ML

# Gay World Video

219 S. Locust St.  
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(Formerly Old Town Arcade)

WELCOME, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

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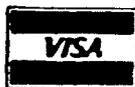


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## LETTERS (CONTINUED)

To the Editor:

Your August issue, in an article on the lesbian and gay contingent in this year's Champaign-Urbana Fourth of July parade, made a reference to "the traditional redneck mentality of the parade-watchers." Having marched with Gay and Lesbian Illini each of the four years that GLI has been in the parade, it is my observation that every year the number of spectators who cheer or applaud us is greater than the number of people who jeer or throw things at us. Hence, negative comments which generalize about all of the parade-watchers are not fair to the majority of spectators.

Your readers might be interested in knowing the names of those individuals outside the gay community who were very helpful in securing the increased police protection for GLI this year. Those people who deserve our thanks are Thomas Betz, Democratic candidate for Champaign County Clerk; President Tom Costello and Parade Assistant Merry Gay Little of the Freedom Celebration Committee; Mayor Jeffrey Markland of the City of Urbana; and especially Sgt. Tom McGuire of the Champaign Police Department, who coordinated the police and other units providing the protection.

Incidentally, one of the volunteer parade marshalls who accompanied the lesbian and gay male group throughout the entire parade route was Chad Little, the punter for the University of Illinois football team. Did any of us ever expect to see the day when one of the Fighting Illini would help protect some of the Gay and Lesbian Illini?

Robert Michael Doyle  
GLI 7/4/86 Parade Coordinator

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

PLU regrets the stereotyping of C-U parade watchers and apologizes to all politically-correct, intellectual-bisexual, left-wing grad students who fell victim to our overzealous sweeping generalization. Apologies to whomever else as well.

# features

## AN INFORMAL HISTORY OF THE C-U BAR SCENE PART ONE: IN THE CLOSET

[First in a series.]

The next time you're at C Street, ask anyone if he or she remembers The Capital. You'll probably hear something vague about a high school field trip to Springfield and Abe Lincoln's home. It's doubtful there'll be much reminiscing about a bar called The Capital, although it served as our unofficial gay watering hole in the '60s, right where Murphy's Pub now stands.

In some respects things haven't changed all that much around here in twenty years: C-U has stubbornly remained a one-bar town. And if history has anything to teach us, it looks as if it's going to stay that way for some time.

What was it like twenty years ago, when gay men (rarely lesbians) dropped in The Capital for a drink and conversation? The gay men who went there would appear conspicuously closeted to us today. As one man recalls, "The Capital had a lot of gays, but it wasn't known as a gay bar. The times prevented it. You just went in and drank and talked--and never danced. We were all pretty

much in the closet in those days, when simply touching another guy in a bar could land you in jail. I remember being up in Chicago in '65 at a bar popular with gays, and saw one fellow put his arm around another guy's shoulder in the most innocent of hugs, and two vice cops arrested him right there for lewd and lascivious behavior. We never had any police harassment down here, but we were still afraid to show any affection openly toward one another when we were in a place like The Capital. Like I said, it was the times."

For reasons lost to memory, the Capital crowd eventually drifted to another bar around the corner, the Wigwam, located where the Round Robin is today. Unlike the Capital, the Wigwam offered two floor levels, and the gay crowd found it convenient to congregate separately rather than mingle with the straight patrons, who were known to be a bit more tolerant than those at the Capital.

"It was a strange mix, actually," says one man we spoke with. "The Wigwam was pretty much a straight bar--mostly artsy-liberal types--until around 9:00. Then the straights went upstairs and the downstairs was taken over by gay men. So the straights had to walk through us to get up to their part of the place on the second floor. We were still pretty closeted then, although it had to be obvious to anyone walking through that we were gay. The downstairs was very small--it still is today--but on weekends it was packed with gay men." Same-sex dancing was still forbidden, of course.

"By the Fall of '68, no one went to The Wigwam," recalls one man. Everybody switched to The Crystal Room, apparently after a generalized falling-out with the management of the Wigwam.

The Crystal Room, in the Inman Hotel (now the National Academy of Arts in downtown Champaign), had long been a favorite hangout for railroad men, yet gays were tolerated there for many years, even into the late '60s when camp was in and drag came out of the basements of our homes and into the bars. There are memories of a few scuffles between the railroaders and gays, however. The Crystal Room also had a no-dancing policy, but one bartender, Charlie, occasionally let gay patrons dance together. And The Crystal Room allowed a little more touching.

"The Crystal Room was part of 'The Circuit', as we called it then," recalls one man. "It had a john in the basement that could be reached from the outside entrance as well as from inside, and a lot of us checked it out as we cruised the bus station john and the municipal parking lot to the east of the old Illinois Power Building. I picked up my first trick while I was doing The Circuit. It was cruisy as hell in those days."

The '60s also saw a lot of after-the-bar partying, especially while the Wigwam was in its heyday. A core group of three or four men were our Elsa Maxwells. Around last call at the Wigwam, you would invariably hear an announcement of a party at so-and-so's house after the bar closed. "Parties were very big then," says a veteran. "Socializing was the thing. You went to the Wigwam to find a date, to get to know him, and take him to an after-the-bar party. Don't get me wrong--we weren't saints. Naturally you hoped and prayed you'd nail him that first night, but there was more emphasis on getting to know his name, at least. This was before the bookstores became popular, remember."

Where were the lesbians in the '60s? Everyone we interviewed agreed that lesbians rarely were a part of the gay scene until the '70's, and preferred to party among themselves. It was only after Stonewall and the

(Continued on page 8)

HISTORY OF THE BARS (CONTINUED)

emergence of the gay rights movement that lesbians became more visible in C-U's club scene--as did hundreds of men --ushering in the Wide Open '70s, and the second stage of gay bar life in Champaign-Urbana.

(Next issue: PART TWO: INTO THE LIGHT)

JS

# calendar

Gay Community AIDS Project rummage sale, Wednesday, August 27, McKinley Foundation yard. To donate items, call 328-1670. Great chance to clean out your closets.

Gay and Lesbian Illini Fall semester introductory meeting and party, Friday, September 5, 7:30 pm, Illini Union, Room 270. Come mingle with real live activists.

Gay and Lesbian Illini weekly coffeehouses, Fridays, September 12, 19 and 26, 8:00 pm, McKinley Foundation. Come sip some automatic drip.

Alternate Current pot luck, 7:00 pm, Saturday, September 13, McKinley Foundation, 5th and Daniel. Bring a dish, come and dish.

Gay Community AIDS Project entertainment extravaganza, The Stars Come Out, Saturday, November 1, Lincoln Hall Theater, U of I campus. Call 351-AIDS if you'd like to perform. Big names are promised.

People Like Us can be picked up at these locations: Jim &

Yvonne's Video Arcade, Gay World Video (formerly Old Town Arcade), Little Professor Book Center, Horizon Bookstore, Gay & Lesbian Illini office, Channing-Murray Foundation, McKinley Foundation, Record Swap, The Daily Grind, and Nature's Table. If you'd like your organization or business to be a distribution point for People Like Us, write to PLU, Box 3332, Urbana, IL 61801.

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# People Like Us

No. 4

October 1986

News, opinions, and features for the G-L-bay and lesbian community

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Two highly acclaimed gay/lesbian films are set to appear on campus this month. The groundbreaking Desert Hearts will be at McKinley Foundation on Sunday and Monday, October 19 and 20 at 8:00 and 10:00. David Ansen of Newsweek wrote of Desert Hearts: "Vivian, a Columbia University professor, arrives in Reno for a divorce, circa 1959. Staying at a dude ranch run by the hard-drinking Frances, she meets Frances' surrogate daughter, Gay, dark, coltish, and uninhibited in her pursuit of other women. The tautly strung Vivian responds to her friendship, as she does to the liberating landscape of the West; when she finally allows herself to be seduced, the experience is a revelation. The movie keeps an open heart toward all its characters, and the effortless re-creation of 50's Reno adds greatly to its glamour."

RW of People Like Us says, "If I were a lesbian, I would have been quite bowled over by the climactic lovemaking scene in Desert Hearts. As is, I still thought it was pretty hot stuff."

Parting Glances, another groundbreaking film, premieres at McKinley Foundation on October 26 and 27 at 8:00 and 10:00. Parting Glances has been praised as the first American film to truly take the homosexuality of its characters totally for granted. Newsweek's Ansen wrote:



Robert (John Bolger) cuddles around his lover Michael (Richard Ganoung) in a scene from Parting Glances.

"This is the post-gay-liberation world of New York, in the plague years of the 80's. The film's most intriguing character, the ascerbic musician Nick, is dying of AIDS, but this movie is not about AIDS. Nick is the ex-lover of Michael, a writer who has settled into a yuppified life with handsome but bland Robert. Writer-director (Bill) Sherwood follows these characters for 24 hours,

reflecting the wit, banality, and poignance of their lives. This is a warm social comedy, strong on accuracy. It's an insiders' movie, and that's exactly why 'outsiders' should want to see it."

Gay-themed films in Champaign-Urbana have a history of losing money for their promoters. Both of these films provide more than ample reason to reverse the trend.

RW/JS

## NEW TASK FORCE MEMBERS, BAD VIBES FROM LEVY, TACTICAL DISPUTES

Chancellor Thomas Everhart's Campuswide Task Force on Sexual Orientation is involved in the process of appointing new members this month, due to the departure of Paul Ochman, Larry Osborn and Doug Diefenbach from Champaign-Urbana. Ochman and Osborn were highly visible members of the local gay community while Diefenbach was the interfraternity advisor to the task force.

Task Force co-chair Mary Ellen Shanese has informed People Like Us that the group is working on a large random survey of the University community in order to measure the "homophobia level" on campus. Shanese, a fierce supporter of gay rights, is impressed with the survey instrument and has high hopes for the success of the project.

Other sources in the gay community have informed People Like Us that the task force has not been receiving cooperative gestures from Vice Chancellor Stan Levy. Levy reportedly appeared at a task force meeting on April 30th and told the group that they had misinterpreted Chancellor Everhart's charge. Levy maintained that the group was only to consider education of the university community on the issue of sexual orientation, not possible policy changes to guarantee protection for gay people on campus.

Since Levy's unpopular appearance at the meeting, however, Chancellor Everhart has informed the task force that they have not misinterpreted his charge and that he does want them looking at legal methods for extending civil rights protection to the university's gay community.

MEANWHILE, long time local gay activist Professor Richard Mohr, of the University's Department of Philosophy, and Task Force chair Shanese have parted paths in a dispute over circulation of a letter Mohr addressed to Shanese's task force.

Mohr's letter, summarized in issue three of People Like Us, is a harsh and direct, but effective, attack on Chancellor Thomas Everhart, as well as a somewhat philosophical treatise on the issues up for grabs in the gay rights debate.

Ms. Shanese decided the letter might do more harm than good in the current climate, and declined to circulate it to task force members.

Mohr, pointing out that he is "the only openly gay faculty member at the University (and) certainly the only one doing gay research," has now circulated the letter to

(continued on page 2)

TASK FORCE (continued from page 1)

the task force himself, along with a two-page cover letter taking Ms. Shanese's decision to task.

The task force's final report to Chancellor Everhart is due in December, although Ms. Shanese has indicated that the group will probably miss the deadline.

The obvious, although not directly stated, goal of the task force is to help obtain an antidiscrimination policy that would protect all gays and lesbians on the University campus.

RW

#### LOCAL POLITICIANS TO COURT GAY VOTES

Forty-five candidates for local political office have been invited to participate in a forum sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Illini on Sunday, September 28, at 4 pm in 269 Illini Union on the U of I campus.

Among the candidates who have agreed to attend are Helen Satterthwaite (D), state representative for the cities of Champaign and Urbana, and long-time co-sponsor of gay rights legislation; Brian Silverman (R), current Champaign County Public Defender, who is running against incumbent Satterthwaite; and U of I Legal Service attorney Thomas Betz (D), who is a contender for Champaign County Clerk.

All local candidates who will appear on the November ballot have been invited to attend the forum, including those running for the U of I Board of Trustees, the US House, the State Legislature, county-wide seats, and the local county board districts.

The public is welcome to attend and ask the candidates to address any issues, not just gay-related ones. The local press has often covered the event in the past, and forum organizers traditionally separate the audience into two groups: those who consent to being photographed, and those who do not.

Gay and Lesbian Illini have sponsored the candidates' forum for the past eight elections. For further information, call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard at 384-8040.

JS/RMD

#### GAY EPISCOPALIANS

The Chapel of St. John the Divine in Champaign has formed a branch of the national organization of gay Episcopalians. The group, Integrity, can be contacted via the chapel at 344-1924. Group members are considering a proposal to cooperate with Roman Catholics in the formation of a local branch of Dignity, the international gay Catholic group. In many U.S. cities, the two groups meet together due to the dogmatic and liturgical similarities of Roman Catholicism and the Church of England (sometimes called "Anglo-Catholicism.")

RW

#### T-ROOMS COME OUT OF THE CLOSET

The U of I McKinley Health Service has received tentative approval to install racks in four campus men's rooms for distribution of Gay Community AIDS Project literature. McKinley health educator Mary Ellen Shanese has been working on the plan and has been pleased at the nonhomophobic responses she has so far received.

The four men's rooms were targeted for AIDS literature

distribution because of the high amount of sex which takes place within them. Six other campus "t-rooms" have also been identified by the group working on the plan, although the first phase of the effort will concentrate only on the four busiest locations.

#### HERE WE COME AGAIN

Plans are underway for organizing a 1987 gay and lesbian march on Washington. For information, write:

March on Washington Committee  
P O Box 1986, Old Chelsea Station  
New York, NY 10011

For those interested in a Champaign-Urbana contingent, PLU will act as a local organizer. Contact us at 384-8462.

#### SWITCHBOARD UPGRADES TRAINING

Training for new and experienced volunteers on the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard will be held Sunday, October 11, from 2 to 4 pm at the McKinley Foundation.

The trainer for the session is Pat Morey from A Woman's Fund, who brings years of experience from work with Rape Crisis Services.

The training is open to both lesbians and gay males. Reservations should be made through the switchboard (384-8040), which operates Monday through Friday, 7-10 pm.

The switchboard, in operation since 1976, is sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Illini and provides information and referrals to callers whose inquiries range from "Where are the bars in town?" to "I want to come out and need some advice."

JS/R

#### HOMOPHOBE STEPS DOWN

Anti-gay state legislator Sam Vinson (R-Clinton) resigned August 15th from public office and joined a Chicago law firm. Vinson, who was Assistant Minority Leader, caused many efforts at statewide AIDS legislation to fail by introducing "AIDS-ophobic" amendments. Among Vinson's suggestions were ones aimed at forcing people wanting to marry to take the HIV (HTLV-3) antibody test, forcing prostitutes to take the test, and requiring mandatory reporting of persons who tested positive.

Vinson was also on the AIDS Interdisciplinary Advisory Council and frequently was the lone dissenter on measures the Council hoped to approve. His return to the private sector can only be seen as good news for the gay community.

#### "PACO" ARBOGAST DIES, MINISTER BASHES FAGS AT FUNERAL

Paul D. ("Paco") Arbogast, 31, of Urbana, died August 15th. Police say his death was apparently a suicide. Arbogast had reportedly received a diagnosis of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome earlier this year. Prior to that time he had been employed in food service in local restaurants.

The gay community, and particularly the lesbian community which used to frequent 35 East, has expressed shock and grief.  
(continued on page 4)

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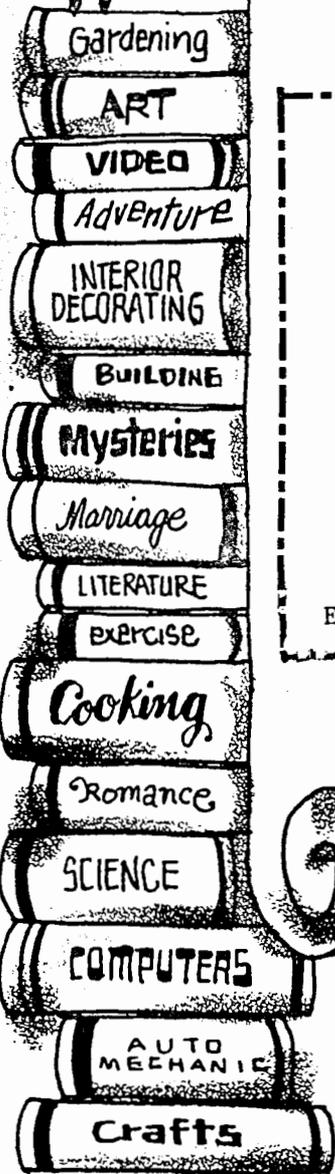
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FUNERAL (Continued from page 2)

outrage over the sermon preached at Arbogast's funeral. Sources in the community tell People Like Us that Rev. Robert Deyarmond of the Foursquare Church in Urbana preached an antigay homily, misconstruing the New Testament parable of the Good Samaritan to put forth a message that "Paco had fallen among thieves (homosexuals)."

The mourners at Arbogast's funeral were further outraged by what they saw as an attempt by Rev. Deyarmond to get them to come forth and "accept Jesus Christ as their personal lord and savior."

One woman left the funeral feeling as if she had been told that "the gay community had stolen Paco's life from him."

Rev. Deyarmond also is reported to have mispronounced Mr. Arbogast's name during the sermon, referring to him as "Pay-co" rather than "Pah-co".

RW

#### WELDON DEATH

John J. Weaver, 26, of Weldon, IL, died June 24, 1986 southwest of Farmer City, according to the Cinton Daily Journal. Weaver had been vice president and an assistant cashier of the Weldon State Bank prior to his death. He was married in 1983 to Judith McDavid and was a member of the Deland Christian Church. Dewitt County Coroner John Roetker told People Like Us that Weaver's death has been ruled a suicide.

RW

#### DANEN DEATH

Patrick Danen, 38, of Ivesdale, died at 5:30 p.m. Friday, September 19, 1986 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana. Funeral services were held September 23 in Stetsonville, Wisconsin. A memorial service is scheduled for September 28 at 2:30 p.m. at the Mahomet Community Building. Mr. Danen was past president of the Mahomet Chamber of Commerce and the owner of Pat's Stripping in Mahomet.

RW

## health news

#### GOOD NEWS FOR THE WORRIED WELL

A new study based on computer models and on statistics collected in San Francisco's gay community in 1982 provides some good news for people who fear they may have had only one or a few exposures to HIV (HTLV-3). Dr. John A. Newmeyer of the Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic presented the following predictions at a recent conference sponsored by the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation and George Washington University Medical Center:

The risk of infection with HIV (HTLV-3) from a single exposure to the virus via passive anal intercourse is 1.5%. From a single exposure via swallowing semen, the risk of infection is 0.3%. And, from a single instance of active or insertive anal intercourse, the topman would

risk a 0.2% chance of becoming infected with HIV (HTLV-3).

Dr. Newmeyer's study is consistent with earlier studies which have shown passive anal intercourse (being on the bottom) to be the riskiest sexual activity for HIV transmission. This study also lends credence to the "viral threshold" theory which maintains that a significant factor in HIV seroconversion (developing HIV infection, that is) is how much and how often one is exposed to the virus. Further exposure to HIV after one is exposed could also play a significant role in determining who goes on to develop AIDS and who simply remains an illness-free carrier of the virus.

All these statistics aside, recent studies show that 40% of gay men in San Francisco have developed antibodies to the HIV virus. In 1982, only 10% of San Francisco men were infected. Given that many people infected with HIV never develop AIDS, however, it is predicted that only 10% of San Francisco's gay male population will eventually be hit by AIDS by the time the epidemic is history.

The good news in Dr. Newmeyer's study, of course, is that someone with one or even a few potential exposures to HIV has a very good chance of not having been infected with the virus. This good news is NOT, of course, to be construed as altering in any way current safe sex guidelines. Condoms should always be used whenever one person enters the body of another. Another good rule of thumb is "on me, not in me."

RW/BJ

#### HEPATITIS VACCINE UPDATES

An internal, preliminary report at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta is recommending that persons immunized against hepatitis B receive booster shots five to seven years after the initial series of vaccinations. Recent studies have shown that hepatitis B antibodies, which protect vaccinated individuals against infection, decline significantly over five years. Only a few of the people whose vaccination has "worn out," however, seem actually susceptible to re-infection with hepatitis B. Researchers suspect that the continued protection, despite the loss of protective antibodies, is a function of what they have termed "immunological memory."

Nevertheless, the loss of protective antibodies does open a small percentage of previously vaccinated individuals up to clinical hepatitis B infection and it is for this reason the CDC is recommending booster shots. The recommendation is expected to be announced officially this fall.

Also on the hepatitis B front, a new vaccine was approved last month by the FDA. The new vaccine, Recombivax-HB, is synthetically produced. The old hepatitis B vaccine, which has been available since 1982, is produced from the blood of hepatitis carriers. This fact has scared off some individuals for fear that the vaccine could expose them to HIV (HTLV-3). This fear has persisted despite numerous reported cases of such HIV transmission and despite the fact that production of the traditional vaccine includes a three-step process which has been shown to deactivate HIV.

The new vaccine will initially cost about the same as the old vaccine--\$100 for three shots over six months. However, other companies are expected to enter the market with the new vaccine in the next year or two and this competition is expected to bring down the cost. Many gay

(continued on page 5)

VACCINE (continued from page 4)

people have failed to get the hepatitis vaccine because of the cost. As we reported in the July People Like Us, however, more people die each year from hepatitis B related illnesses than the total number of people who have died to date as a result of AIDS.

RW/BF

#### AIDS AND MOSQUITOES

Mosquitoes, cockroaches, ant-lions, tsetse flies and other insects have been found to be infected with HIV (HTLV-3) in the countries of Zaire and the Central African Republic. However, French AIDS researcher Dr. Jean-Claude Chermann of Paris' Pasteur Institute maintains that there is no evidence suggesting insects can pass the virus to humans.

Chermann says that studies have shown conclusively that children who are frequently outdoors and subject to insect bites do not get AIDS unless they acquire it from their mothers at birth.

Chermann was among the French researchers who discovered the LAV (HTLV-3/HIV) virus.

RW

#### MORE BAD NEWS ON POPPERS

Epidemiologists at the Centers for Disease Control are intrigued by a recent downswing in the evidence of Kaposi's sarcoma among person with AIDS. Thirty-four percent of PWA's had Kaposi's sarcoma in 1981, while the current figure stands at 14%. The most accepted theory is that decreased use of amyl nitrite drugs (poppers) is responsible for the KS decline. Several studies have led to the apparent conclusion that use of poppers and development of KS are related.

Investigators have not ruled out, however, that the drop in KS cases is a result of a change in the HIV (HTLV-3) virus itself.

In the meantime, however, stopping all use of poppers seems like a fairly painless precaution in the AIDS battle.

RW/BF

## Opinion

#### WE ARE EVERYWHERE

PLU endorses the efforts of Chicago activists who are launching a plan to write the words "Gay Dollar" on all money that passes through our hands. The words should be written to the left of the photo on the front of the bill, this being the only legal spot to write on. The purpose of the campaign, which has worked successfully in Florida, is to show our economic clout and our large numbers. Chicago activists have mounted the campaign as a partial response to the recent defeat of the gay rights bill in the city council.

PLU Editorial Board

#### WHO'S OPPRESSING WHOM?

Just at a time when my personal gay activism is hitting a peak, I've come to the rather unsettling realization that my own homophobia is my biggest oppressor. This is an

odd reality when you consider that I'm one of those people who is out to everyone, that my family puts my partner John and me in the same bed on visits home, that city ordinance (Urbana) protects my job, and that I can count on my hands the people who've exited my life because I'm gay.

And, today, a secretary at work said to me, "When do I meet the love of your life?" I said, "Well, why don't I bring him to the next all-firm function?" She replied, just oh-so-sincerely, "Well, that would be fine with me."

The fact is, it would be okay with her. Why isn't it okay with me? Why, in fact, do I sometimes kiss John goodbye on the street and sometimes chicken out? Why did my best friend Mike and I panic last month at the airport, ready to give each other a peck, as thirty boys from Chanutte milled around waiting for their flight? Why do I still mail my parents news clippings presenting local gay activities in a positive light?

Because I'm still trying to convince me that it's okay to be gay.

After all this time. . .

The gay prophets have all said that if we'd all come out of the closet, the gay civil rights struggle would be history. "Coming out" (which means just being myself), whenever the situation presents itself, is probably the solution to my personal struggle too.

You see, it's curious cycle. I chicken out on kissing John goodbye on the street near work. As a result, people in Urbana don't see men kissin each other. As a result, we all continue to assume men don't/won't/shouldn't kiss each other on the street in Urbana.

All I've got to do to break the cycle is kiss John on the street. My friends and their partners need to follow the example. At first, we'll feel self-conscious (like black people felt at white lunch counters) and passersby will perhaps be shocked or even angry (like the whites at the counters were). In time, however, there will cease to be anything novel about men pecking each other goodbye on the streets of Urbana. And the only thing standing in the way is me: I don't kiss John in public. Not only am I homophobic and oppressing myself, but I'm failing to fight for "the cause" as well.

It might even be the case that no one would do anything particularly unusual when they see us kiss. Perhaps their minds will simply register the thought "gay liberation hits Urbana" and they'll continue down the street. Occasionally someone might yell "Fag" out a car window. People yelled "nigger" too.

One interesting test of all this occurred when the Station Theater presented Torch Song Trilogy. For some reason, John and I gave ourselves permission to sit in this mixed audience with our arms over each other's shoulders. Obviously, the heterosexuals in the audience are not used to seeing this in Urbana. The result? No one said anything, did anything, or even looked mildly surprised.

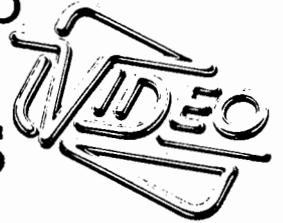
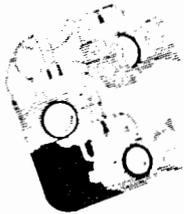
Another interesting test involves my work with the Gay Community AIDS Project. Several times I've gone out on our AIDS speaker's bureau to address housewives, PTA mothers and the like. I frequently begin my talk with "Hi, I'm a real, live gay person, here to talk to you about the impact of AIDS on the gay community." Their faces never register any change.

And, just what am I looking for? Do I expect to see  
(continued on page 7)

# WE STOCK 'EM!!

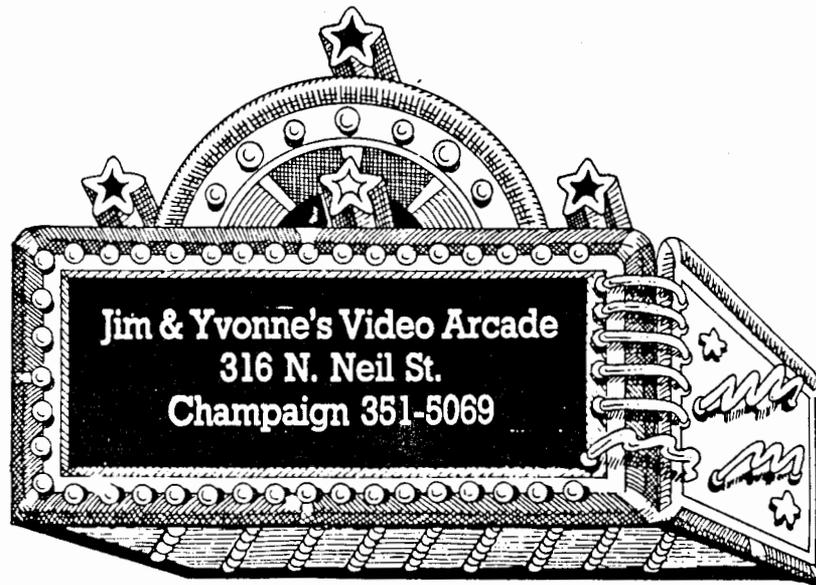
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WHO'S OPPRESSING WHOM? (continued from page 5)

their eyes bulge just a little? Do I expect Bibles to come flying out of purses or what?

I've almost come to feel as if I end up standing there fighting for my legitimacy, when I've already walked into an environment where my legitimacy is not in question.

So, I stand up there before PTA mothers and talk about t-room sex and rubbers and pre-cum and bathhouses. And they come up afterwards and thank me for the wonderful presentation.

Yes, perhaps it's time to face the music. I'm the one oppressing me. "Society" will give me my legal and social rights as soon as they know I presuppose that I already have them. That means dismantling the closet completely, so I can't slip quickly back into it when thirty Air Force boys are looking at me at the airport.

RW

(Reprinted from RW's "A Piece of My Mind" in issue 454 of The Advocate.)

# letters

To the Editor:

In the September edition of People Like Us, you included in the "calendar" column on page 8 a listing for "Gay and Lesbian Illini" weekly coffeehouses at the McKinley Foundation.

The Friday coffeehouses have been held for gay and lesbian people for several years in the McKinley Foundation building, but these have never been sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Illini. They have been and continue to be a ministry of the McKinley Presbyterian Church, its members and its governing board.

The McKinley Church has continuously provided space and other support for activities of Gay and Lesbian Illini, support which I feel has been taken for granted, not least by your announcement. The McKinley Church takes a courageous stand on many social issues, including gay rights, at the risk of censure from the Presbyterian denomination and many members of the community. McKinley has chosen to accept those risks and the fact that it doubtless loses financial support from many people because of a strong commitment to openness and acceptance.

I am not a member of the McKinley Church, but I have profited greatly from its programs. The coffeehouse is only one of numerous ways in which the church lends support to the gay community in Champaign-Urbana and other oppressed groups. I believe that the gay community should show its appreciation to the church and its people, gay and straight. We can begin by giving credit where credit is due.

Michael Sitton

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make the GCAP Rummage Sale such a great success. The donated rummage and/or time to prepare everything was greatly appreciated.

It is good to know that there are people who can give of themselves to make an event of this nature successful. It does take time out of busy schedules and it's not

glamorous work, but the camaraderie is wonderful. Personally, it is just plain fun. GCAP depends on this type of support to continue providing the educational and support services so necessary at this time.

Like any other other organization, nonprofit groups require money to operate. Therefore, we must continually be involved in fundraising. In an organization of this nature, that must be done by volunteers. The people who have involved themselves up to this point have done a wonderful job. However, there is always a need for additional volunteers.

Thank you again for a job well done. I look forward to working with everyone on the next project.

Bob Browne  
Finance Chair  
Gay Community AIDS Project

# features

## GAY IN THE LIBRARY

Even though students would be lucky to find a university course with deliberate gay content, the University of Illinois Library has a quite respectable collection of books of interest to gay people. Since there is no gay studies department, however, these materials do not jump out at you. The Library's books of gay interest run the gamut: history, religion, art, law, entertainment, sociology, politics, travel, sex, humor, fiction, AIDS, and just plain raunch.

Books can be located by author, title, and sometimes by subject--in the paper card catalog for older materials and in the electronic catalog for material cataloged in the past ten years. For a variety of reasons, much of this material is located in the general library stacks rather than in departmental libraries. Graduate students and faculty members have access to these stacks and can browse a few areas where some of the titles are concentrated. In addition, some gay studies materials are--for good and ill--housed in closed stacks and therefore impossible to browse. The decision to house some material in a closed area is not one of censorship but rather a measure to make sure material can be located for users.

By the way, no one should express any hesitancy about borrowing gay material from the university library, whether for recreation or for research. The library staff has no interest in who borrows what. Names of borrowers are never available to the public and all records are deleted when materials are returned.

One librarian fairly knowledgeable about the library's gay studies holdings is John M. Littlewood, 200D Library, phone 333-1056. He is willing to help.

JL

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\*  
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\* WE WANT TO REPRESENT ALL LOCAL GAY PEOPLE. ANY \*  
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AN INFORMAL HISTORY OF THE C-U BAR SCENE

PART TWO: INTO THE LIGHT

About two years after the Stonewall Riots, C-U finally felt the Gay Rights wave that was cresting across the nation: Its first openly gay bar, the Balloon Saloon, opened its doors. Located where Jim & Yvonne's Video Arcade is today, the Balloon Saloon was modest by today's standards (more than one has described its decor as "tacky Terre Haute"), but it took on the wonder of Oz. At the very least, the Balloon Saloon was a first step toward the freedom that had been denied us for as long as we could remember.

"It had a small wooden dance floor," recalls one man. "And it had women! They'd finally come out of the woodwork." And the music? "Well, the mix was different then. There were always slow songs sandwiched in between the fast ones. Men actually slow danced together in those days. It was more romantic than it is today."

Another man looks back on the "Saloon days" as a time of great excitement: "There was a real restlessness going on then. We were begging to experience our own freedom to be ourselves somewhere other than in our homes. At the Saloon we could kiss each other, even though we were discreet about it. But it was what I'd call a 'happy bar'. And it didn't have a cover charge!"

The Balloon Saloon had one very special feature: it was rarely patronized by straights, and if you saw a heterosexual couple there, it was usually a case of the woman dragging her reluctant boyfriend there to gawk. Full of gay men and women, the Saloon celebrated the explosion of energy brought by Gay Liberation.

(continued on page 9)

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the stars come out  
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8 pm  
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Presbyterian Church  
fifth & john, champaign  
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CALL:  
351-AIDS

"I think it's interesting that we took our freedom in small doses at first," said one survivor of those days. "We had the chance to fashion ourselves into anything we wanted. But what did we do? We modeled ourselves after the straight world. Basically, all we wanted was the straight life in gay terms--date a guy, fall in love, marry him, and settle down."

The Balloon Saloon was a definite hit, so it came as no surprise when another bar, Giovanni's, opened up "down the road and around the bend" near the Champaign Post Office. Giovanni's was a big jump ahead of the Balloon Saloon. As one veteran remembers, "It was glitzy--mirrors, a dj booth, some lights--a big deal for Champaign. It was definitely a dress-up bar, unlike the Saloon. Costumes were expected; one night you'd wear your new Chiiana shirt and pressed slacks, and the next night you'd be in cowboy drag."

Few women patronized Giovanni's ("You got the impression from the management that women were not welcome," recalls one person), so they went to the Balloon Saloon, which buckled under the competition and failed less than a year after Giovanni's opened.

And then the predictable happened. "As soon as Giovanni's became the only game in town--WHAM--there was a cover charge," said one veteran of what became known as "The Bar Wars."

The early '70s were without doubt the heyday of gay life. In the larger cities the baths were jumping and it was acceptable to play there, openly gay bars were popping up all over the country, and everybody did poppers. Sex was wide open. With the wisdom of hindsight, many have observed that, as a subculture, we acted like kids just let out for summer vacation.

But the naive fun didn't last long for many: Drugs--heavy ones--rapidly invaded the scene, and changed the face of gay social life for many. A survivor describes it in these terms: "We moved directly from innocence to decadence, with no break in between. Drugs hit us like a sledgehammer. They were the thing to do." But they also caused an odd social problem. "Most of us got together just to get high, not to meet Mr. Right anymore. Mr. Right was a corny myth by then. With every chemical under the sun to blow your mind, why bother with love?"

Yet another shift took hold by the mid-'70s--cliques. "Along with all the drugs, suddenly cliques were everywhere," one man said. "It was almost as if we couldn't handle the freedom, the absolute openness we enjoyed within the subculture, and so we resorted to the security of tight little social groups. People spent a lot of time trying to worm their way into the 'in crowd' of the moment. Like the stripper in Gypsy, you were known for your gimmick--flashy clothes, or leather or levis or cowboy drag--and you did everything you could to attract attention and be accepted."

On weekends, Giovanni's was alive with heavy-duty cruising. One fellow fondly remembers that Sunday nights were popular, too, but in a different way. "You could let your hair down and leave the costumes and competition at home for awhile," he said. "It was a social atmosphere, more like 'the old days' when people talked and relaxed with one another." C-U also saw the demise of the after-work parties that held sway a few years earlier. "Breakfast after the bar" became the rage. The Red Wheelbarrow University (where the Charley Horse is now) was particularly popular for dishing over a late-night meal. Occasionally, however, the Rose Bowl crowd assembled here as well, leading to some awkward, if not tense,

moments for everyone.

"Success breeds greed," someone once said. And it applies to gay bars as much as anywhere else. Watching Giovanni's packing them in every weekend, a disgruntled employee, Joe McNamara, decided it was time to move into the market. And thus The Bar was born.

[Next issue: PART THREE: THE END OF AN ERA]

JS

## reviews

Socrates, Plato, & Guys Like Me is not a biography (nothing is learned of the author's early life), it is not a history or academic study of gay school teachers, it is not a "titillating" read. It is the story of Eric Rofes' experience of coming out; the joining of his personal, private gay life with that of his professional "closeted-by-necessity," day-to-day employment as a school teacher.

At the heart of the author's actions is honesty; primarily, honesty to self even when such openness is, at least on the surface, quite costly.

Rofes was a highly competent, first-year, sixth-grade teacher at an upper middle class, private grade school in suburban Boston in 1977. By the end of his second year, the internal tension between "passing" at work (a female date at school functions and using a pseudonym when writing for Boston's Gay Community News) and his increasing activism for gay rights had reached the point where Rofes decided to "sin boldly"; he sent a coming-out statement, along with his signed, third-year contract, to the school's headmistress. The events that followed are familiar to anyone who has confronted an institution with a matter with which it does not wish to deal. "Why do this to us?" "Why do this to yourself?" For Rofes, it was a question of a unified life.

An easy afternoon read, the book is written in a conversational manner (one wonders how Rofes remembered events well enough to record discussions as quotations since he was probably not wired for sound) but little is learned about the people involved--Rofes sounds like Super Gay and Super Teacher while the headmistress is almost a Miss Gulch character. One of the more humorous situations is the vision of the closeted, straight-appearing gay man suddenly discovering he is to teach sex education to the fifth and sixth grade boys.

It is the final board meeting, which for this reader is very similar to an event in his own past, which brings Rofes' point to the fore: to be "gay and proud" may be costly and the gay person must be ready to face such cost for the opportunity to live freely and honestly.

Socrates, Plato, & Guys Like Me, by Eric E. Rofes, was published by Alyson Publications, Inc., Boston, in 1985, and is available in local bookstores and at the Urbana Free Library.

James W. Mason

### MR./MS. RIGHT, WHERE ARE YOU?

Try a personal ad in PLU and find adventure, if not romance, right here in C-U. See page 11 for info.



# calendar

Women Making Waves," Sundays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., WEFT, 3.1 FM.

lesbian coffeehouse, every Friday, 8:00 p.m., McKinley Foundation, 5th & Daniel, Champaign.

Gay men's coffeehouse, every Friday, 8:00 p.m., McKinley Foundation, 5th & Daniel, Champaign.

Lavender Prairie Collective production meeting, September 13, 7:00 p.m. 502 W. Springfield, Apt 3, Champaign.

Gay Community AIDS Project Meetings (call 351-AIDS for times and locations)

- Board of Directors: 2nd & 4th Thursdays
- Education Committee: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
- Finance Committee: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays
- Buddy Project: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays

Desert Hearts (October 19 & 20) and Parting Glances (October 26 & 27) at the McKinley Foundation, 5th and Daniel, Champaign.



Hivan Bell (Helen Shaver) and Cay Rivvers (Patricia Charbonneau) in the final scene of Desert Hearts.

Gay Community AIDS Project entertainment extravaganza, The Stars Come Out, Saturday, November 1, McKinley Foundation, 5th & Daniel, Champaign. Call 351-AIDS if you'd like to perform.

The 6th Annual Chicago Gay & Lesbian Film Festival began September 26 at the Music Box Theatre.

People Like Us can be picked up free at these locations: Acres of Books, Chester Street, The Daily Grind, Channing-Murray Foundation, Gay & Lesbian Illini office, Gay World Video (formerly Old Town Arcade), Horizon Bookstore, Jim & Yvonne's Video Arcade, Little Professor Book Center, McKinley Foundation, Nature's Table, and Record Swap. If you'd like your organization or business to be a distribution point for People Like Us, write to PLU, Box 3332, Urbana, IL 61801.

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Editor. . . . .RW  
 Associate Editor, Layout. . .JS  
 News. . . . .MF, RW  
 Contributors. . . . .BF, JC, EK, JS, RMD, MES,  
 ML, JM, JL

Names of PLU contributors and staff are sometimes pseudonyms or are reduced to initials, due to the lack of civil rights protection for gay people on the campus of the University of Illinois.

Publication of the name of any individual by People Like Us is not to be construed as a statement regarding his or her sexual orientation.

A donation of \$7.50 will allow us to mail you a copy of this publication for one year.

The editors welcome submissions of news, opinions, features, fiction, and poetry.

#### ADVERTISING RATES:

Personals: \$1 for every 25 words or less. Any ads that are sexual in nature must specify safe sex. All phone numbers and addresses must be verified.

<u>Display ads</u> :	1/16 page	\$3	1/8 page	\$6
	1/4 page	\$12	1/2 page	\$24
	3/4 page	\$36	Full page	\$48

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# People Like Us

212  
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September 1987

No. 13

News, opinions, and features for the C-U gay and lesbian community

## news

### GCAP TAKES NEWS-GAZETTE PROTEST PUBLIC

The board of directors of the Gay Community AIDS Project (GCAP) and others protested July 27 in front of the offices of the Champaign-Urbana *News-Gazette*, calling for a boycott of the newspaper by advertizers until the newspaper reverses a ban on GCAP ads which contain the phrase "safer sex."

GCAP has been quarreling with the newspaper since March over placement of the ads, which have run without incident in other downstate Illinois newspapers in Rantoul, Danville, Gibson City, Watseka, Charleston, Decatur, Mattoon, Monticello, Paxton, Tolono, Hoopeston, Bloomington, Normal, and Urbana.

The *News-Gazette* initially refused to accept any GCAP advertising, but later modified its position to exclude only ads which referred to "safe sex", "safer sex", or "reduced-risk sex." After the initial blanket ad refusal, GCAP enlisted the help of the Champaign Human Relations Commission and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund to investigate legal action against the newspaper. It is illegal under Champaign city ordinance to discriminate on the basis of "sexual preference."

*News-Gazette* chief executive officer John Hirschfeld has called GCAP's ads "in bad taste, like movie ads where the women aren't covered up." He has also written a column on the newspaper's editorial page criticizing "homosexual society" for its "selfishness" in promoting condom usage. Condoms, Hirschfeld said in his column, do not stop the spread of AIDS but, rather, only slow it. "Abstention, monogamy and self control," he told readers, are the appropriate responses to AIDS. GCAP responded to Hirschfeld's column with a letter to the editor, which the *News-Gazette* printed. The letter likened wearing condoms for sex to wearing seat belts for driving, pointing out that if abstinence is the correct response to AIDS, then never getting in a car again is the correct response to 50,000 yearly highway fatalities.

The July 27 protest was covered by local broadcast media and GCAP has promised to continue its public actions until the newspaper relents. "We've had it up to here with this reactionary newspaper's homophobic and erotophobic whims," said GCAP education co-chair Tom Kilton. "We've talked to them until we were blue in face. Maybe now that we're going to hit them in the pocketbook, they'll listen." GCAP chair Bob Browne agreed, and pointed out that "if 15 other newspapers, spanning the political spectrum, in towns all smaller than Champaign-Urbana, find our ads acceptable, that should give us a clue that we're dealing with blatant malice and prejudice in the *News-Gazette's* actions." RW

People Like Us can be picked up free at these locations:  
Nature's Table, Horizon Bookstore, Channing-Murray Foundation, Illini Union Book Center, Gay & Lesbian Illini Office, The Daily Grind, Little Professor Book Center, McKinley Foundation, Gay World Video, Jim & Yvonne's Video Arcade.

### GLI CONFRONTS 4TH REVELERS

About 20-25 members and supporters of Gay & Lesbian Illini marched again this year in the Champaign-Urbana 4th of July parade. Reaction from the parade audience was mostly neutral or positive with only a few token shouts of "Queers", "Fags", and "AIDS" mixed in. One incident did take place in front of FarmHouse fraternity at Pennsylvania and Lincoln Avenues in Urbana. Large chunks of ice were thrown at the GLI contingent from the frat house, but no one was injured. GLI contingent coordinator Robert Michael Doyle has written to the fraternity demanding an apology, and carbon-copied the letter to the Urbana Police Department.

According to GLI co-president Peg Phillips, numerous parade watchers cheered and clapped. Near the end, when the marchers were hot and tired, someone yelled, "Freedom. That's what it's all about. Freedom for everyone!" "That made our day," said Phillips. GLI marchers were joined by members of The Gay Community AIDS Project and by members of Integrity, the Episcopalian gay group. RW

### PLU TO CEASE PUBLICATION, MOSTLY

With this issue, *People Like Us*, as you know it, will cease to exist. PLU will most likely continue as an irregular, single-paged announcement sheet. We foresee future publication as corresponding with particularly significant events in the local gay & lesbian movement.

PLU began in July of 1986 as a hobby of two lovers. The personal relationship that produced PLU ended in October of 1986, but PLU has endured. Ninety percent of the work on the past few issues has been done by one person. Even for something as small as PLU, the amount of work (interviewing, writing, word processing, paste-up, copying, distribution) is immense.

The PLU editor, as before, will continue to submit particularly important local stories to *The Windy City Times*, *Chicago Outlines*, *The St. Louis Gay News-Telegraph*, and Indianapolis' *The New Works News*. Such stories are almost always printed by these publications, which are available at the Gay & Lesbian Illini office, Chester Street, and The Little Professor Book Center.

Subscribers to PLU may request a refund of their remaining subscription money, or may elect to receive any future announcement sheets that are published. Requests for refunds should be directed to: *People Like Us*, P.O. Box 694, Urbana, IL 61801. PLU is in the black and will be most glad to refund any subscription money.

Included in this current issue is an updated list of what is available to gay men and lesbians in Champaign-Urbana. We suggest you hang on to this list, as we will not be publishing it again.

It has been our pleasure to serve the local community via this publication and we hope you have enjoyed our efforts. We do not see the cessation of publication as a failure, but rather consider ourselves lucky that Champaign-Urbana was able to support a gay newspaper for over a year. Thanks. RW

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS INCHES FORWARD IN  
PROTECTING GAYS**

Eight University of Illinois documents have been modified to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation at all U of I campuses. The modifications are the result of statements this spring by University President Stanley Ikenberry and University Chancellor Thomas Everhart that they would move to ban discrimination against gay men and lesbians. Everhart and Ikenberry's actions came after two years of protests by Gay & Lesbian Illini and after the release of a report by the Chancellor's Task Force on Sexual Orientation.

The policy changes have been included in eight separate documents contained in the Campus Administrative Manual, the Affirmative Action Program Plan, the Code on Campus Affairs and Regulations Applying to All Students, and the Academic Staff Handbook.

Complaints of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation are to be resolved within the University system, and not in civil court, a procedure which continues to displease campus activists. "We want to see **sexual orientation** added to the University Statutes and the General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure," said Gay & Lesbian Illini Political Action Coordinator Terry Cosgrove. "Only then will victims of anti-gay and anti-lesbian discrimination be fully protected by law."

The University of Illinois Board of Trustees, however, refused to take this action at its May 14th meeting, opting instead to incorporate Ikenberry's anti-discrimination statement into the minutes of their meeting. GLI co-president Kristina Boerger told reporters this means the University still wishes to be able to discriminate without being held legally accountable for it.

GLI is currently working with the Chicago and Urbana-Champaign campus Senates, hoping the Senates will recommend to the Board of Trustees that the Statutes be changed. The Trustees have a history of not rejecting the recommendations of the Senates.

RW

**LOCALS TO MARCH ON WASHINGTON**

Gay & Lesbian Illini is coordinating local transportation and lodging for the **Second National Gay & Lesbian March On Washington**, set for the weekend of October 11th. Organizers predict the march will be the biggest event in the history of the modern gay rights movement and the biggest gathering in Washington, D.C. ever for a single cause. To plan your participation, call GLI at 333-1187, or track down Terry Cosgrove, Kristina Boerger or Peg Phillips.

RW

**INTEGRITY ACCEPTED INTO NATIONAL GROUP**

Integrity/East Central Illinois, a Champaign group of gay Episcopalians and others, was accepted in June into the national Integrity group. The local group is currently in the process of becoming a not-for-profit corporation in Illinois. Elected to the board of directors were Robert Michael Doyle and Frances Reedy. N. Frederick Nash will serve as secretary-treasurer. Michael Sitton and Forrest Brown will continue as Convenor and Assistant Convenor for the group.

Over the summer, Integrity/ECI marched with Gay & Lesbian Illini in the Champaign-Urbana 4th of July parade.

RW

**NEWS-GAZETTE C.E.O. REJECTS CONDOMS**

John Hirschfeld, the chief executive officer of the Champaign-Urbana **News-Gazette**, and author of the newspaper's **From Where I Stand Column**, stated in a June 26 column that condoms are not the answer to AIDS. Instead, Hirschfeld believes, "abstention, monogamy and self-control seem sounder, safer, saner and, yes, less expensive."

Hirschfeld's column also went into detail on the dispute between the newspaper and The Gay Community AIDS Project. The two have been quarreling since March over the **News-Gazette's** refusal to accept any advertisement that contains the phrases "safer sex" or "reduced-risk" sex.

"The best scientific knowledge we now have," Hirschfeld wrote, "supports the conclusion that AIDS is preventable--but only if certain lifestyles are modified or abandoned. Condoms are not the answer; they only reduce the possibility of contracting the disease. So, to those homosexuals who find themselves alienated from what they publicly refer to as our 'straight' society (a euphemism) and demand instead, not just tolerance for, but approval of, 'alternative lifestyles' (another euphemism), let me suggest another option: **self control.**"

"I totally support the funding necessary to find a cure for AIDS," Hirschfeld went on, "but I also support all efforts to eliminate its spread. Most homosexuals do not totally support the latter, advocating instead the use of condoms. That demonstrates enormous selfishness on their parts and a callous disregard of their responsibility to the rest of mankind....To adopt the approach of homosexual society requiring publicity about its support for 'safe sex' is a denial of the existence of a human being's free will."

The Gay Community AIDS Project responded to Hirschfeld's column with a letter to the editor, and plans to continue its sixties-style protests in front of the **News-Gazette's** offices.

RW

**G | C**  
**A | P**

Gay Community AIDS Project  
PO Box 713  
Champaign, Illinois  
61820

351-AIDS

- General AIDS information
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- 351-AIDS hotline
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- GCAPsule monthly newsletter

**THE GAY COMMUNITY AIDS PROJECT**

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# Opinion

## PROTEST THE POPE

Pope John Paul II, the anti-gay leader of the Roman Catholic church, will be visiting the United States in September. PLU joins hundreds of other gay organizations in urging the gay community to protest the Pope's trip. His itinerary is as follows:

- 9/10/87: Miami, Florida
- 9/11: Columbia, South Carolina
- 9/11-9/13: New Orleans, Louisiana
- 9/13-9/14: San Antonio, Texas
- 9/14-9/15: Phoenix, Arizona
- 9/15-9/17: Los Angeles, California
- 9/17: Monterrey, California
- 9/17-9/18: San Francisco, California
- 9/18-9/19: Detroit, Michigan

Recent Vatican attacks on the gay community have included a document from the Sacred Congregation For The Doctrine Of The Faith which went further than any previous Catholic statement, condemning not only homosexual actions, but stating that a mere homosexual orientation in itself is ordered toward an objective moral evil. Previous Catholic statements have always regarded a homosexual orientation as morally neutral. The Vatican has also ordered bishops to cease association with any homosexual-oriented groups that contradict official Church positions. This has lead several U.S. bishops to kick the gay Catholic group Dignity out of church buildings they have been using for years.

Some PLU staff members are utilizing the Pope Protest to execute a trip to San Francisco. We urge the rest of you to do the same, with any of the above cities. RW

**PEOPLE LIKE US** has a new address. All future correspondence with us should be directed to:

**PEOPLE LIKE US**  
P. O. Box 694  
Urbana, IL 61801

# Opinion

## HERE'S YOUR CHANCE

Lesbians and gay men have a chance to make history this year like never before. It starts in mid-September when Pope John Paul II has plans to swoop down on San Francisco. Tens of thousands of us should be on hand to greet him. It's a perfect chance to mix pleasure with a serious social, political, religious and humanistic statement.

The Vatican's recent hateful, self-oppressed, relentlessly hypocritical attacks on gay people deserve nothing less than an all-out response. No matter if you're an atheist or a devout Catholic, the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's violent document of last fall carries the same influence in our country, a country in which there are more nominal Catholics than practitioners of any other religion. The document--which described a homosexual orientation, apart from any actual activity, as ordered toward an objective moral evil--also provides fuel for the gay-hating fundamentalists, who lack the kind of intellectual integrity associated with 1,900 years of Catholicism. It's one thing for a fundamentalist to quote Leviticus again, but quite another for Rome to dredge up the respected ghosts of Aquinas and Aristotle and direct their philosophical genius toward discrediting our existences. The Vatican actions provide a somewhat respectable intellectual coat to gay-hating and gay-bashing at all levels. Several bishops have already used the document to prevent the gay Catholic group Dignity from continuing to use diocesan churches for their liturgies. The gay community must respond.

I suggest we greet John Paul by the thousands, not only in San Francisco, but particularly there. I suggest we infiltrate all his public appearances all over the country (I've heard he'll be in Detroit and New York too) with signs and chanting and liturgical disobedience. Our message need not be complicated. Quite simply, we are everywhere and we will be free. It would also be satisfying to mention to the press and to the Pope that the smallest estimates are that 40% of the American Catholic clergy are gay. Many people, including me (I'm an ex-seminarian), believe the number is closer to 70%. The hypocrisy of this numbs the mind. The worst homophobes are frequently the biggest closet cases. How many authors of the Congregation's document have turned their self-hatred into hatred of us--the very people who provide the example of the freedom they refuse to accept?

Certainly, I agree that our protests are not going to engender any prompt or dramatic change at the Vatican, but we ought to be able to give them cause for pause. Thousands of self-accepting, self-loving gay men and women following the Pope around the United States this fall would have to be a media event, a Catholic event, and a personal event for the Pope.

This proposed Pope protest is particularly timely since the next month, in October, we are gathering for the biggest demonstration in the history of the modern gay rights movement. I want you to save your dollars this summer and buy another ticket--to Washington, D.C. in October for the Second National Gay & Lesbian March on Washington (see an article elsewhere in this issue of PLU for local plans). Several people have already predicted this

could be the largest single gathering of demonstrators in the history of the capitol. Think of the effect of this occurring just as the brouhaha over the Pope being hounded by gays all over the country is dying down. If only 10% of us show up, that's 2.5 million people. If we all showed up, we'd be half again as big as the largest city on the planet. What if our friends in Canada came down? Sheer numbers in and of themselves, regardless of whatever message we managed to communicate, would be an event of undeniable drama for the whole nation. Gay political clout would take a long overdue leap forward. What if we all carried a sign with the name of our hometown on the back? Think of all those congresspeople and legislators who believe there are no queers in their districts.

The 25 million or so of us hiding out in this country truly have the chance of a lifetime. I've already heard rumors of a national coming out day in conjunction with the March. What a beautiful idea, what a dream. We pin a button on our jackets as we enter our law firms and dental offices and college basketball games--a button which says, "National Coming Out Day! I'd like you to know you know a gay man/lesbian."

What a dream. But the dreams of one decade have a way of becoming the reality of the next. Maybe the time is ripe, or, if not, maybe the gay minority who make the noise this year will stir the silent majority for next time. U.S. Congressperson Gerry Studds, speaking last year in Urbana, said he altered his jogging path in 1979 to pass by the route of the First National Gay & Lesbian March on Washington. Now he appears at colleges and tells students that coming out of the closet set him free and allowed him to love himself. In 1979 I was an engaged news anchorman, just beginning to suspect that the feelings I had kissing a man I met on the walking mall in downtown Rock Island, Illinois were somehow different from the feelings I had when making love to my fiancée. The time is ripe for me. 1987 is going to be the year I try to change my own destiny and the destiny of the brothers and sisters I have come to love. If you all join me, none of our lives will ever be the same. **RW**

Editor: Rex Wockner  
 Contributors: James Mason, Terry Cosgrove  
 Production: WordPerfect

People Like Us is published ten times a year by PLU, PO Box 694, Urbana, IL 61801. Subscriptions: \$7.50 for one year, mailed first class.

Publication of the name of any person by PLU is not to be construed as a statement regarding his or her sexual orientation.

The editor invites submissions of news, opinion, and features.

Advertising rates for personals are: \$2 for every 25 words. Display ad rates are: \$48 for a full page, \$24 for 1/2 page, \$12 for 1/4 page, and \$6 for 1/8 page.

People Like Us can be picked up free at these locations: Nature's Table, Horizon Bookstore, Channing-Murray Foundation, Illini Union Book Center, Gay & Lesbian Illini Office, The Daily Grind, Little Professor Book Center, McKinley Foundation, Gay World Video, Jim & Yvonne's Video Arcade.

# ads

Male models, 18-25, sought. Personality matters more than looks. Set your own fees. Safe sex. Reply: P.O. Box 3124, Champaign 61821-0124.

# gay C-U

## AIDS

Gay Community AIDS Project, P.O. Box 713, Champaign, 351-AIDS. Info, speakers, support services.  
 AIDS information in Illinois: 1-800-AID-AIDS.  
 C-U Public Health, 710 N. Neil, Champaign, 352-7961. Anonymous HIV antibody testing with counseling, STD clinic.  
 U of I McKinley Health Service, 1109 S. Lincoln, Urbana, 333-3263. Gay-supportive doctors, HIV antibody test not anonymous.

## ACADEMIC

Gay & Lesbian Illini, 270 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green, Urbana. Social & political group open to non-students.  
 Gay & Lesbian Switchboard, weekday evenings, 384-8040.

## ARTS

Art Theatre, 126 W. Church, Champaign, 351-7368. Frequent gay or lesbian films.  
 C-U Men's Chorus for gay and gay-supportive men, 384-8040 for info.

## BARS

Chester Street, 63 Chester St., Champaign, 356-5607. Mixed dance and conversation bar. More gay than not.  
 Eddies, 706 S. 6th, Champaign. Alleged mixed bar for younger men.

## BOOKS

Horizon Bookstore, 517 S. Goodwin, Urbana, 328-2988.  
 Illini Union Book Center, 1401 W. Green, Urbana, 333-3903.  
 Little Professor Book Center, 505 E. Green, Champaign, 384-3094.

## EROTICA

Gay World Video, 219 S. Locust, Champaign, 356-6980.  
 Jim & Yvonne's Video Arcade, 316 N. Neil, Champaign, 351-5069.

## PUBLICATIONS

GCAPSule. Periodic newsletter of Gay Community AIDS Project (see above).  
 Lavender Prairie News. Women's newsletter (see below).  
 People Like Us. P.O. Box 694, Urbana. Monthly newspaper.

## RECREATION

Alternate Current, P.O. Box 2641, Stn. A, Champaign. Men's social group (pot lucks, Chicago trips, etc.)  
 Cruisy locations for men on U of I campus: basement of the Union (SE), basement of Harker Hall (NW), 4th floor of Main Library, lowest level of Undergraduate Library, Huff Gym locker room, IMPE sauna.  
 Daily Grind, 502 E. John, Champaign. Mixed coffee shop.  
 Gay men's coffeehouse, McKinley Foundation, 5th & Daniel, Champaign. Friday evenings, 8:00.  
 Lavender Prairie Collective, P.O. Box 2096, Stn. A, Champaign. Women's support and literary group.  
 Lesbian coffeehouse, McKinley Foundation, 5th & Daniel, Champaign. Friday evenings 8:00.  
 PLATO computer notes file. Sign on to PLATO and request file access in "gaynote" file.

## RELIGION, SUPPORT

Gay Alcoholics Anonymous, McKinley Foundation, 5th & Daniel, Champaign, 328-1670.  
 Gay Consciousness-raising groups, McKinley Foundation, 5th & Daniel, Champaign, 344-0297.  
 Integrity, Canterbury House, 1011 S. Wright, Champaign, 344-1924. Gay Episcopalians, with some Roman Catholics. All welcome.  
 Unitarian Gays, Channing-Murray Foundation, Oregon & Matthews, Urbana, 344-1176.

# People Like Us

NOV October

# People Like Us

A community newsletter of the Lesbian and Gay Illini

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

OCT 17 1989

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

## People Like Us Returns . . . Again

And it's about time, too. PLU has been in mothballs for too long and LGI is pleased to air it out. For the more senior members among you who can recall the last incarnation of PLU, you'll notice some changes this time around. Most importantly is that PLU is now a publication of LGI. While we're concerned about getting the word out to the lesbian and gay community at Uof I, we also recognize our responsibility to the lesbian and gay community of Champaign-Urbana.

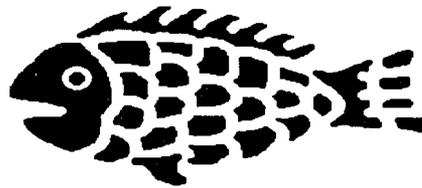
To that end, we will include in this newsletter information that is relevant to all lesbians and gays in our little corner of east-central Illinois. In each month's issue we plan to include news and information about relevant issues, feature articles, a calendar of events, opinions and editorials, and perhaps even personals. We hope you'll support our efforts to get PLU going again—all you have to do is read it. We welcome your comments and any submissions to the newsletter.

## news

### Lesbian and Gay Alumni Homecoming Reunion

The University of Illinois Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association (GALA) will hold its first annual homecoming reunion for lesbian and gay alumni of the Urbana-Champaign campus on October 28th. GALA is coordinating the reunion with LGI and we hope that this is only the first of many successful projects bringing students and alumni together at the campus. For more information about the reunion contact LGI.

news continued on next page!



### Men's Chorus Begins '89-'90 Season

The Champaign-Urbana men's Chorus (CUMC) is seeking a few good singing men. Every Sunday evening from 6:30-

9:30, you can hear this lively group of gay and gay-supportive male vocalists making joyful noises just off the quad from the basement of Smith Hall. Music Director Robert Beazley invites students (undergrad and grad) and townspeople who sing to join CUMC for their 1989-90 season. Singers need not be ready for audition at the Met; street voices are welcome in CUMC. The chorus will give their Winter Concert on December 2 at McKinley Church; other appearances in the mid-state area are planned for the season. For more information call Bob at 332-2457 or Chris at 337-0134.



A few good singing men.

## *news*

### **GALA Rolodex Alert**

U of I GALA is looking for alumnus! The larger and broader the membership of GALA, the more effective they can be. If you are an alumnus who is interested in joining GALA or if you know of others who are, get in touch with GALA at P.O. Box 53336, Washington, D.C., 20009.

### **AIDS Awareness Week**

McKinley Health Center, Student Government Association, and the College of Medicine Student Task Force on AIDS have joined efforts to conduct an educational campaign during AIDS Awareness Week, officially designated by Chancellor Weir as October 23-27 at the UIUC campus. Lesbian and Gay Illini is co-sponsoring the event along with the McKinley Foundation and the Champaign-Urbana Community Task Force on AIDS.

LGI, the McKinley Foundation and the Gay Community AIDS Project are planning a candlelight vigil on the Quad on October 25th at 7:30 p.m. For more information about this event or any other during AIDS Awareness Week contact LGI co-president Kathy Ayotte.

### **Come Out, Come Out Wherever You Are**

The second annual National Coming Out Day (NCOD) is October 11th. This date commemorates the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights attended by more than 600,000 people. The march was the largest civil rights march in the nation's history.

The theme of NCOD is "Take Your Next Step." This is intended to let each individual take the step in the coming out process that is most appropriate for him or her. It also stresses that coming out is not a singular event, but an ongoing process.

LGI will hold a rally on October 11th in support of NCOD. The rally is designed to encourage lesbians and gays to enlarge the circle in which we are "out" about our sexuality. LGI encourages not only lesbians and gays to attend but also our families and friends.

The rally will begin at 12:00 noon on the Anniversary Plaza of the Quad. Guest speakers include William Riley, Dean of Students; the Rev. Karen Bush, pastor of Community United Church of Christ; and a member of the University's Counseling Center staff.

Attending the rally can be your next step.

## *LGI reports*

### **Treasurer**

As LGI treasurer, I am responsible for the the group's finances. Right now LGI is primarily dependent on the Student Organizational Resource Fund (SORF). SORF is money devoted to funding registered student organizations. Money for SORF is collected by a voluntary four dollar fee to students each semester. In the beginning of each semester, I complete a request form for SORF detailing our budget for that semester and talk to the members on the SORF board about the budget. Afterwards, the SORF board decides how much of the requested amount will be given to us. Besides SORF, LGI collects money through various fundraisers (like "rent" parties) and voluntary donations. All of our group's purchases and collections must go through me since I must carry out all transactions on LGI's bank accounts.

Ben Madamba, Treasurer

### **Education Committee**

Greetings from the Education Committee. We oversee LGI educational projects in the community. Our main project is the speaker's bureau. Speaker's bureau is a group of people who speak to area groups about being lesbian/gay/bisexual. This offers a unique opportunity for us to gain exposure and promote understanding. Traditionally, we speak to the university residence hall staff and various classes. In addition to scheduling speakers, we are planning several projects. We will be revising the speaker's bureau handbook, training new members, and contacting other groups that might be interested in having a speaker's bureau. Anyone wishing to suggest a possible speaker's bureau or interested in speaking is encouraged to contact the LGI office.

Chris Martin, Education Committee Chair

### **Officers**

The current officers of LGI are Ian Fielding and Kathy Ayotte as co-presidents, Ben Madamba as Secretary, Andy Webber as secretary, Chris Martin as Education Committee chairman/Speaker's Bureau Coordinator, Steen Lawson as Political Action Committee Chairman and Rubén Zurita as Resource Committee Chair. PLU will keep you updated as to developments and events within LGI and its committees. If you are interested in participating in LGI, come to our weekly Sunday meeting, at 4 p.m. in or around our office, Room 270 of the Illini Union; or come to the office during one of the officer's scheduled office hours, posted on our door.

Andy Webber, Secretary

## Governor Again Shows No Leadership On AIDS

by Arthur Schenck

Prior to leaving on yet another overseas "trade mission," Illinois Governor James R. Thompson acted September 11 on pending AIDS legislation, leaving gay and AIDS activists to charge that the Governor had again failed to show any leadership on AIDS, but at the same time, he did no real damage. "What the Governor did wasn't as bad as it could have been. In fact, it was better than we expected," observed Joanne Trapani, Co-Chair of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force (IGLTF).

Thompson's approval of a measure to repeal Illinois' 21 month old pre-marital HIV testing law received most of the media attention, but his actions on other bills are far more important to Gay and Lesbian people and to people living with AIDS and HIV infection. Most significant are the approval of two bills that had been introduced at the request of IGLTF: HB496, which deals with expedited Human Rights hearings, and HB1838, the experimental drug bill. In the fall of 1988, IGLTF convened a special meeting of its State Legislation Project, to draw up an action plan for the next legislative session.

As a result, State Representative Woods Bowman (D-4) agreed to introduce a bill to expedite discrimination hearings for persons with fatal diseases. That bill, HB496, was passed by the legislature and signed by Thompson. The other bill, HB1838, was sponsored by State Representative Ellis Levin (D-5), and mandates that the Department of Public Aid develop criteria for deciding what experimental drugs it will pay for. That bill was also passed by the legislature and signed by Thompson.

"These are important victories," noted IGLTF State Legislation Director, Tim Drake. "IGLTF identified problems and drew up legislation which the legislature passed."

Thompson's most criticized action was his signing of HB1871, sponsored by Penny Pullen (R-55) which makes willful transmission of HIV a Class 2 felony punishable by up to seven years in prison. The bill was often called the "Kissing Bill" because it applied to behavior that "could transmit" HIV. Thompson vetoed a much worse bill



Rep. Woods Bowman



Rep. Ellis Levin

sponsored by State Senator David Barkhausen (R-30), which defined transmission, bodily fluids, and--unlike Pullen's bill--applied to behavior "likely to transmit" HIV.

Drake criticized Thompson for "failing to show any leadership on the issue of criminal transmission," but added "we do note that he vetoed the enforceable bill and signed the unenforceable bill." Trapani agreed, adding "Thompson's a pragmatist and felt that he had give something to his conservative supporters and he chose the least damaging bill to do that." Legal experts expect that the law will be overturned by the courts.

In signing the measure to repeal the pre-marital testing law, Thompson finally admitted he'd made a mistake in approving the bill in 1987. IGLTF had opposed the bill when it was first passed, and supported its repeal. "The charade of testing as prevention has been disavowed," Drake said.

Testing as public policy has not, however, as Thompson approved measures to expand some kinds of HIV-antibody testing. Persons entering state-run drug and alcohol treatment facilities and sexually transmitted disease clinics will be subjected to "routine" testing. Drug treatment facilities will offer the test, telling individuals that they have the right to refuse it. STD clinics will give the test, without telling individuals that they have the right to refuse. Thompson also expanded the number of medical personnel who can force testing.

Trapani noted that IGLTF expects a stronger push for general testing. "The studies indicating that AZT

see GOVERNOR page 2

## IGLTF Launches Statewide Lobbying Program

Continuing a major effort at statewide organizing, the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force (IGLTF) has announced the creation of a new statewide communication network designed to organize and mobilize constituent action on behalf of the interests of the lesbian and gay community. The new program, the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force Citizen Action Network (IGLTF-CAN) will be used to provide a local-level structure for action relating to legislation, non-legislative public policy, and the media. It is the first program of its kind ever attempted in Illinois, and may be the only such state program in the U.S.

IGLTF-CAN has its origins in the Phone Tree, a lobbying system organized three years ago. It goes beyond that, however, to include a network of people who pledge in advance to write letters on important issues, as well as a corps of volunteers who will help carry out lobbying efforts. Most significantly, IGLTF-CAN will also provide a structure through which local activists can get help and support on local issues from the statewide community.

Since its founding in 1974, IGLTF has worked on state and local legislation, and last year greatly expanded its efforts at lobbying members of Congress from Illinois. This work has identified a need for a strong constituent-level network, a need that IGLTF plans to address through its Citizen Action Network.

As it works to finalize plans, IGLTF is submitting funding requests to several organizations. Full implementation of the new program is expected to begin by January 1, 1990. For more information on the IGLTF Citizen Action Network, write to IGLTF, 615 West Wellington, Chicago, IL 60657.

**(312) 975-1212**  
**Gay and Lesbian Event Line**

The **IGLTF Bulletin** is the official newsletter of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force, an Illinois not-for-profit organization. It is provided without charge to IGLTF members and to selected organizations and publications.

The appearance in the **Bulletin** of the name or likeness of any person, organization or business is not necessarily an indication of sexual orientation, and shall not be construed as such. The appearance of a name on the IGLTF mailing list is also not an indication of sexual orientation.

Opinions expressed in letters or in bylined articles are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of IGLTF, its officers, directors or members. We welcome letters from our readers. First preference is given to letters from IGLTF members, those that are brief and those that relate to articles in the **Bulletin**.

#### **Bulletin Staff:**

**Managing Editor:** Arthur Schenck

**Contributors:** Tim Drake, Arthur Schenck, Grant Thornley, Al Wardell.

**Photographers:** Vernon Huls, Arthur Schenck.

Address all correspondence to:

**IGLTF Bulletin**  
 615 West Wellington Avenue  
 Chicago, IL 60657-5305

Phone: (312) 975-0707

## IGLTF To Grade Legislators

The Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force (IGLTF) will issue a report card detailing the voting records of members of the Illinois General Assembly and the Illinois delegation in Congress. IGLTF issued a similar report card in early 1988, reporting the voting records of the members of the Illinois General Assembly. This year, due to a greatly expanded national lobbying program, the records of the Illinois delegation in Congress will be included as well. The report card will be released shortly after the first of the year.

As a strictly non-partisan organization, IGLTF does not endorse candidates for public office. These scorecards are part of IGLTF's voter education efforts designed to present lesbian and gay voters, their friends, and the gay/lesbian media with a way to evaluate current officeholders. IGLTF members will receive a copy of the report card as soon as it is issued. Others who want to be placed on the list to receive a copy of the scorecard, or to receive more information about IGLTF, should write to IGLTF, 615 West Wellington, Chicago, IL 60657-5305.

**GOVERNOR** continued from page one

may be effective for some asymptomatic persons who are HIV-positive will give legislators an excuse to try and expand forced testing. But without laws to protect the civil rights of HIV-positive individuals, testing is bad public policy."

The experimental drugs bill is still of concern to IGLTF, which will monitor the process by which the Department of Public Aid draws up its criteria for paying for experimental drugs. "IGLTF will contact service providers when the Rules and Regulations hearings are held to make sure that they have input," Drake said. "Otherwise, the legislation is useless."

# U.S. Senate Passes Americans with Disabilities Act

by Arthur Schenck

Approving what some have called the most important civil rights law in more than twenty years, the U.S. Senate voted 76-8 September 7 to approve S933, the Americans with Disabilities Act. Both Senators from Illinois, Democrats Alan Dixon and Paul Simon, co-sponsored the measure and voted for it.

The bill extends the provisions of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to the estimated 43 million Americans with disabilities, and includes those with AIDS and HIV infection. Specifically, the law would ban discrimination against persons with a mental or physical disability in employment, public accommodations and telecommunications. Housing discrimination was outlawed by the Fair Housing Act of 1988.

The only Senators to oppose the measure were conservative Republicans William Armstrong (Colorado), Christopher Bond (Missouri), Jake Garn (Utah), Jesse Helms (North Carolina), Gordon Humphrey (New Hampshire), James McClure (Idaho), Steven Symms (Idaho) and Malcom Wallop (Wyoming).

Armstrong, who has introduced anti-gay amendments in the past, introduced an amendment specifically excluding "homosexuality, bisexuality, transvestism, pedophilia, transexualism, voyeurism, compulsive gambling, kleptomania or pyromania, gender identity" despite assurances that these were not covered by the bill. Helms, who had been expected to introduce an amendment to remove the AIDS provisions, instead introduced an amendment to exclude transvestites. He attached a similar amendment to the Fair Housing Act of 1988.

Gay and lesbian organizations were pleased with passage of the bill, despite the amendments. Urvashi Vaid, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force told the BULLETIN, "Congress has

said that homosexuality is not a disability. We're fine with that." NGLTF Legislative Director Peri Jude Radecic agreed, but noted "when people are removed from civil rights protections, it's not a good thing."

The Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force is now stepping up its efforts on behalf of the bill in the U.S. House of Representatives, HR 2273. IGLTF has written letters to Illinois' delegation in the U.S. House, and is urging others to do the same. U.S. Representatives from Illinois who are co-sponsors of HR2273, the Americans with Disabilities Act, are: Charles Hayes (D-1), Gus Savage (D-2), George Sangmeister (D-4), William Lipinski (D-5), Cardiss Collins (D-7), Sidney Yates (D-9), John Porter (R-10), Frank Annunzio (D-11), Lane Evans (D-17), Richard Durbin (D-20), Jerry Costello (D-21) and Glenn Poshard (D-22). If your Representative isn't included in this list, write a letter! Even if your Representative is listed, write a letter to urge opposition to any amendments to remove AIDS or HIV infection. Letters should be addressed to: The Honorable (your representative), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. Be sure to send a copy of your letter to IGLTF.

## Next IGLTF Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, October 14, 1989  
9 AM  
615 West Wellington  
Chicago

## FREE PUBLIC FORUM

"Domestic Partnership or Marriage?  
Priorities and Strategies  
for the Lesbian & Gay Community"

Saturday, October 14, 2 p.m.  
Lakeview Branch, Chicago Public Library  
644 West Belmont, Chicago

*Co-sponsored by*  
Lesbian and Gay Bar Association  
of Chicago  
Illinois Gay & Lesbian Task Force

Guest Speakers  
Paula Ettelbrick                      Thomas Stoddard  
*Legal Director*                      *Executive Director*  
*of Lambda*                              *of Lambda*

For further information, call (312) 334-1637

# News Notes

compiled by Genny Allegra Goodrum

## INTERNATIONAL:

**AUSTRALIA:** The state sodomy law in Tasmania is being protested by the Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group. The fledgling activist group is planning an international day of protest on October 22, 1989. For information contact: TGLRG, GPO 1733, Tasmania 7001, Australia.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Of the 30 gay and lesbian groups in the Republic of South Africa, only seven are on record as opposing apartheid. This according to a Black South African gay activist, Simon Nikoli. Nikoli, currently on tour of the United States, is a member of the Gay and Lesbian Organization of Witwatersrand. The group has requested help in creating banners, posters, T-shirts and a newsletter. Contact Simon Nikoli, GLOW, PO Box 23297, Joubert Park, ZA-2044, Johannesburg, South Africa.

**SOVIET UNION:** Has glasnost come to gays in Russia? The lack of a sodomy statute in the most recent Soviet criminal code has led some activists of the International Lesbian and Gay Association to set up a working group on the Soviet Union. Svend Robinson, an openly gay member of the Canadian Parliament, has said that Soviet officials he has talked to confirmed the intent to legalize gay male sex. Apparently, lesbian sex is not and has never been illegal.

## IN THESE UNITED STATES

**DALLAS:** Apparently, the Dallas Police Department feels that it is better for a man to have sex with chickens, horses, dogs and cows than with another man. According to official hiring policies of that earnest city, a prospective police officer must not have had sex with a member of the same sex since age 15. However, sex with "any animal or fowl" is a-ok until the age of 17. Go figure.

**PROVINCETOWN, MA:** Walter Armstrong of ACT-UP angered some residents, both gay and non-gay, by carrying a sign in the P-Town Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade that read "Legalize Clit Licking" and "Legalize Butt Fucking" on the front and back. In a letter made public, the Provincetown Business Guild was quoted as saying "We now face great hostility as we try to rebuild trust." ACT-UP responded "If a single sign

has the power to upset [the community], then relations between the gay and straight communities are hardly profound or worth sustaining."

**OREGON:** The date has been set by organizers of a national lesbian conference: April 25-28, 1991 in Atlanta. Workshops, keynote speeches, exhibits, and concerts will be held for perhaps as many as 5,000 lesbians from all over the country. For more information on the event, contact NLC, PO Box 3057, Albany, NY 12203.

**WASHINGTON, DC:** "Show the Dick!" This was the chant of gay and lesbian participants at a D.C. rally outside the Corcoran Gallery of Art. Organizers were projecting slides of artist Robert Mapplethorpe's photographs on the outside walls of the museum, which had cancelled his exhibit due to the Congressional fight over federal arts funding.

**MARYLAND:** The Second Annual "Creating Change" conference sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force will be held November 10 - 12 in Bethesda, MD. The conference will feature addresses by former Army Sergeant Perry Watkins, author Suzanne Pharr, and author and activist Vito Russo. For info, write: G.E.T. Meeting Planning Series, 1227 25th St. NW, #590, Washington, DC 20037.

## IN ILLINOIS

**PALATINE:** The Palatine Park District demanded that all publicity for a local production of "La Cage aux Folles" carry the warning that "children under 17 must be accompanied by an adult." District officials thought the play's "story line and themes of homosexuality and transvestism" would offend some people. Rod Aiken, superintendent of recreation, said "we want to make sure that people don't walk out aghast." The play is set to run Oct. 20 - Nov. 12 at the park district's Cutting Hall.

**IGLTFolks in the News:** Co-Chair JOANNE TRAPANI has been named to a special panel on hate crimes being put together by Cook County States Attorney Cecil Partee. Former Co-Chair AL WARDELL has been named to the Gay Chicago Magazine Hall of Fame. He was also named "Citizen of the Month" recently by Pulitzer-Lerner newspapers. ARTHUR SCHENCK, IGLTF Secretary, was in Springfield recently to moderate a panel discussion on coming out for Brother-to-Brother, a gay men's organization. Also, he and Board Member BILL VERICK have been nominated to serve on Chicago's Mayor's Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues (COGLI), an official city advisory panel. The nominations are awaiting action by Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley.

## Note This News:

**MACOMB:** Western Illinois University (WIU) has added sexual orientation to its policy on equal opportunity and affirmative action. In a message to the University, WIU President Dr. Ralph H. Wagoner emphasized his dedication to increasing representation of all segments of society in the university, saying "our commitment to non-discrimination and affirmative action will be carried out not only as a legal obligation, but because it is the right thing to do."

The WIU policy affects all University recruitment, hiring, training and promotion activities, and bans discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, disability, and status as a Vietnam era or disabled veteran. The addition of sexual orientation to the policy at WIU follows the same change of policy by the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities in July.

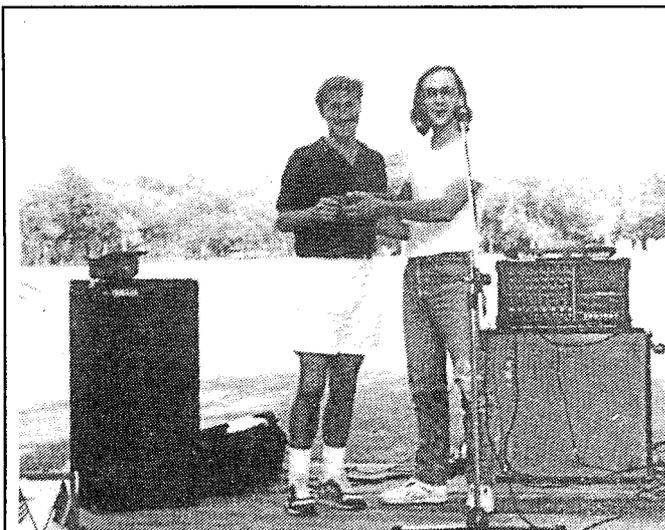
The move at both levels was initiated two years ago by WIU Professor Gil Belles, who serves as faculty advisor to Open Door, a support group for lesbians and gays. There were few such policies in Illinois at the time, but Belles believed that then newly-named president Wagoner would act on his verbal commitments to justice and equality.

IGLTF congratulates Belles and WIU for this important victory. Persons wishing to extend their own congratulations may write to Belles C/O Open Door, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL 61455.

Sources for this month's NEWS NOTES include: the Advocate, Chicago Tribune, Outlines, Windy City Times and press releases. To have news of your group's upcoming event considered for inclusion, mail a notice to NEWS NOTES, IGLTF Bulletin, 615 W. Wellington, Chicago, IL 60657-5305. Allow at least six weeks advance notice. Notices will NOT be accepted over the phone.

**(312) 975-1212**

**Gay and Lesbian Event Line**



**Lightning Strikes Twice!** Mark Allen (left in the photo above) has been pretty lucky lately: Last July, he won the raffle at the picnic of the Central Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force (CIGLTF), IGLTF's Central Illinois Chapter. Then, in September, he also won the grand prize at the Rib Rib Fest Raffle! In this photo, he is congratulated by CIGLTF's Royal Gray (right) after winning the picnic raffle. (photo by Arthur Schenck)

## IGLTF Volunteer Night

Every Wednesday

7 P.M.

615 West Wellington

Chicago

Newsletter Stuffing Every Third Wednesday!

We Need You on October 18!

Chicago's  
Bookstore for  
Gay Literature

**unabridged**  
**BOOKSTORE**

3251 North Broadway Chicago (312) 883-9119

# Is Your Life Worth \$20?



## Some people don't think so.

In fact, some people think you should be dead. They say that AIDS is "God's punishment" against gay men. They say that lesbian and gay people are sick, perverted—dangerous.

Those people are winning.

Since 1974, the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force has been fighting these bigots in the state legislature, in Congress and in hometowns throughout Illinois. But they outspend us ten, a hundred, even a thousand to one. The bigots are counting on you to keep quiet. They're counting on you to let them win.

We're counting on you to help us fight them, to help us organize throughout Illinois—we're counting on you to help us defeat the bigots.

For only \$20 a year, you can be a member of the state's only statewide gay/lesbian civil rights organization, the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force. You can help us to fight for your rights in Springfield, in Washington and in every corner of Illinois. You can help defeat the bigots. So: Who can count on you—the bigots or us?

**We think your life is worth  
much more than \$20.  
Don't you?**



Please Return To:  
**IGLTF**  
615 W. Wellington Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60658  
(312) 975-0707

## Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force

Civil Rights Advocacy  Media Monitoring  Public Education  Legislation  Since 1974

**Yes! I want to help IGLTF fight the bigots!**

Enclosed is:  \$20 (Individuals)  \$35 (Couples)  \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Contribution).

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**I want to do more! Please contact me about volunteering to help!**

Sorry, I can't contribute right now, but please add me to your mailing list.

## forum

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### An Invitation to the Lesbian Community

Not long ago, the Gay and Lesbian Illini changed their name to the Lesbian and Gay Illini to demonstrate an awareness that lesbians within the organization have made a major contribution to its successes. Recently, however, lesbians have all but vanished from LGI.

While any newcomers are welcome (not just lesbians), I have great concern about women who have been a part of LGI in the past, who are still around just not participating. Perhaps LGI has failed, in some way, to address issues that are of special importance to the lesbian community, such as feminism.

All movements for liberation and equal rights are essentially the same fight regardless of the groups involved—though some groups have more difficulty than others in gaining these rights. Each group fights to have its members recognized as full-fledged human individuals, worthy of consideration as persons on their own terms. Fragmented, these groups have little or no impact. When they bicker amongst themselves or try to compete with each other, they fail to make progress where it matters most.

Feminism and the movement for lesbian and gay rights, however, are more closely intertwined than other areas of the individual rights movement. Both seek to destroy the boundaries of traditional gender roles. Feminism focuses on oppression of women. Gay rights considers, simply because same sex relationships defy traditional gender roles, the crippling effect of gender roles for both sexes. Part of the gay rights movement is to defy those who say, "That isn't natural because Man was made for Woman and Woman was made for Man," and to defy those who wish to beat us into molds according to our genitals.

The answer of a lesbian or a gay male would be: "I do not have to 'act like a woman or man' because I am a woman or a man, and so whatever I do must be within the so-called bounds of womanhood or manhood." Is that not feminism?

Regardless of why lesbians have all but left LGI, understand that unless you voice your needs, your wants, and your ideas, they will go unknown. Without the expression of many different perspectives, including yours, the LGI becomes all that more narrow minded and ineffective. We need to hear from all parts of the lesbian and gay community when it comes to needs as well as problem solving. Only by putting our minds, hearts, and voices together will we gather people's attention and make them hear us, loud and clear—and complete.

Deborah R. Lewis

Send your submissions for news, forum, calendar of events, poetry, community resource list to LGI/PLU, 270 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green, Urbana, IL 61801. Submissions should be typed or on a 3.5" Macintosh floppy diskette (to be returned, of course). Pseudonyms or anonymity upon request.

### calendar of events

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- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Sundays        | Lesbian and Gay Illini general meetings, 4 p.m. in or around the LGI office, 270 Illini Union  |
|                | "Womyn Making Waves,"<br>Noon to 2p.m. on WEFT 90.1 FM   |
|                | Women's Night at the Club Cierra,<br>Route 45 North, off I-74.   |
| Fridays        | Gay and Lesbian Coffeehouse,<br>8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Geneva Room<br>of the McKinley Foundation, at the<br>corner of Fifth and Daniel |
| Wed., Oct. 4   | Grassroots Group meeting,<br>7:30 p.m. at University YWCA  |
| Sat., Oct. 7   | Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force<br>Annual Meeting at SIU-Carbondale  |
| Wed., Oct. 11  | National Coming Out Day,<br>LGI Rally at noon on the South Patio<br>of the Illini Union  |
| Sun., Oct. 15  | Prayer Service for PWA's and Those<br>Who Minister to Them, 3 p.m. at<br>St. John the Divine, at the corner of<br>Wright and Armory      |
| Wed., Oct. 18  | Grassroots Group meeting,<br>7:30 p.m. at University YWCA  |
| October 23-27  | AIDS Awareness Week  |
| Wed., Oct. 25  | Segments from <i>A Normal Heart</i> to be<br>performed at noon in the South<br>Lounge of the Illini Union                                |
|                | AIDS Candlelight Vigil,<br>7:30 p.m., on the South Patio   |
| Thur., Oct. 26 | SGA presents Suzanne Landolphi,<br>7-8:30 p.m. (tentative) in the Union,<br>check local listing to be exact.                             |
| Sat., Oct. 28  | GALA Homecoming Reunion,<br>7-10 p.m. at Chester Street  |

## local resources

### **AIDS**

Gay Community AIDS Project, Box 713, Champaign, IL 61820; (217) 351-AIDS. Information, speakers and support services.

AIDS information in Illinois: 1-800-AID-AIDS.

Champaign-Urbana Public Health, 710 N. Neil, Champaign, IL 61820; (217) 352-7961. Anonymous HIV-antibody testing with counseling, STD clinic.

University of Illinois, McKinley Health Center, 1109 S. Lincoln, Urbana, IL 61801. Gay supportive doctors, HIV anonymous testing: contact Mina Coy at 244-7471.

### **Academic**

Lesbian and Gay Illini/ Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau, 270 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green, Urbana, IL 61801; (217) 333-1187. Social, educational and political group, open to all.

### **Arts**

Art Theatre, 126 W. Church, Champaign; 351-7368. Frequent gay/lesbian films.

Champaign-Urbana Men's Chorus for gay and gay supportive men. For info call the Switchboard, 384-8040.

### **Bars**

Chester Street, 63 Chester, Champaign; 356-5607. Dance and conversation bar, mixed but more gay than not.

Club Cierra, Route 45 N., off I-74, Urbana; 367-1082. Lesbian private party, "The Chosen Few," on Sunday evenings only.

### **Books**

Horizon Bookstore, 517 S. Goodwin, Urbana; 328-2988.

Illini Union Book Center, 1401 W. Green, Urbana; 333-3903. Gay Studies section.

Jane Adams Book Shop, 208 S. Neil, Champaign; 356-2555.

Little Professor Book Center, 505 E. Green, Champaign; 384-3094. Lifestyles section, postcards, art books.

### **Erotica**

Holiday Video, 213 S. Neil, Champaign. Call Switchboard, 384-8040, for more information.

### **Political**

Grassroots Group for Second Class Citizens, womyn's group devoted to the use of direct action to work for social change. (Write in care of LPC for further info.)

### **Publications**

GCAPsule. Periodical of the Gay Community AIDS Project. (See listing under AIDS.)

Lavender Prairie News. Newsletter of the Lavender Prairie Collective. (See listing under Social.)

### **Religion**

Integrity, Canterbury House, 1011 S. Wright, Champaign; 344-1924. Episcopalians and Roman Catholics, meets third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), McKinley Foundation, at 5th and Daniel, Champaign; 356-0823. Meets every Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

### **Social**

Alternate Current, P.O. Box 2641, Station A, Champaign. Mens social group, potlucks, trips.

Gay and Lesbian Coffeehouse, McKinley Foundation, at 5th and Daniel, Champaign. Friday evenings from 8 to 10 in the Geneva Room.

Lavender Prairie Collective (LPC), P.O. Box 2096, Station A, Champaign. Womyn's support and literary group.

### **Support**

Alcoholics Anonymous and ALANON/ACOA for lesbians and gays, McKinley Foundation, at 5th and Daniel, Champaign; 356-0823. Meets Fridays at 7 p.m.

East-Central Illinois Gay/Lesbian Switchboard, 384-8040. Provides confidential peer counseling; medical, legal and religious referrals; and info about local organizations and social opportunities. Weeknights from 7 to 10.

Gay/Lesbian Rap Groups, McKinley Foundation. Call Switchboard, 384-8040, for info.

PWA and Worried Well support groups. Call Charlie Schweitzer, 344-0297.

## PLU credits

Thanks to Andy Webber, Rubén Zurita, Ian Fielding and other contributors for their time spent writing, typing and formatting this first issue of the new PLU.

PLU is published monthly by the Lesbian and Gay Illini, under the supervision of the LGI Resource Committee. PLU is distributed in the LGI office, 270 Illini Union, and in various locations on and around the U of I campus yet to be announced.



PLU is paid for by SORF.

# People Like Us

A community newsletter of the Lesbian and Gay Illini

NOV 8 1989  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

## Local Legislator Threatens GCAP Funding

Finding funds for AIDS on any level, from research to education, is a tricky task, one that has been undermined by conservative politicians since the first outbreak of the epidemic. The national struggle fought by doctors, researchers, and gay and lesbian task forces has moved into Champaign-Urbana and become a local issue. The fight is on between State Representative Timothy Johnson and the Gay Community AIDS Project (GCAP). At issue is the very existence of the group.

In an unexplained move, the Center for Disease Control froze funding promised to GCAP in the amount of \$20,000. The funding, which is handled through the Illinois Department of Public Health, was promised to GCAP and confirmed in an August 31 correspondence from Gale Fella, Public Health Administrator for the Champaign-Urbana

Public Health District. Expenditures drawn on the grant had to be completed by December 31, 1989 and GCAP started contracting for staff and advertising immediately.

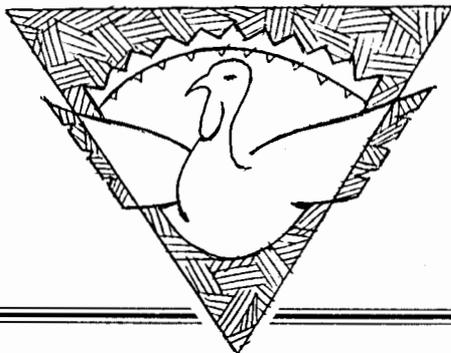
On September 29 the Gay Community AIDS Project recieved another less friendly letter, one in which the funds described as "approved" in the August 31st letter had somehow become "tentatively allocated" and later "restricted." GCAP, which had contracted for approximately \$8,500 worth of services, now had a large debt and none of the federal funding it had been guaranteed.

Phone calls placed by GCAP to the Illinois Department of Public Health found staff members sympathetic but unwilling to act without approval of local legislators—

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### People Like You

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and you know what that means. That's right, it means a chance to stuff yourself silly. But it also means that it is time to take account of the things we have to be thankful for. LGI is thankful that the new PLU has been so warmly received but we need your help. You see, we want to make PLU not only an LGI newsletter, but a community newsletter as well. That means we need more input from the community. So dust off your typewriters and your word processors and send us your submissions. We are interested in feature articles, news items, opinions, letters, book and movie reviews, poetry, community resource listings and items for the calendar of events (and anything else you can think of). Send you submissions (typed or on a Macintosh floppy diskette) to:

PLU / LGI  
270 Illini Union  
1401 W. Green Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

Or bring you submission to our office, 270 Illini Union.  
Happy Thanksgiving.

## news

GCAP continued from page 1

specifically, the local Republican legislators. Enter Tim Johnson, State Representative and arch-enemy of GCAP. Suddenly the \$10,000 that had been "found" to bailout GCAP was "lost." Johnson, who in an October 25th *Champaign-Urbana News Gazette* article pledged, "I guarantee you, based on my history with them [GCAP], we will do everything conceivable to stop that [funding]," had become the pivot point for GCAP's survival.

As of September 29th there were 3,281 PWAs (People with AIDS) in the state of Illinois. Cook County had the highest count with 2,689. Champaign County had 33. To put things in perspective though, surrounding counties, like Piatt with 1 PWA, had a much lower incidence putting Champaign County on the high end of the lot of down state counties. Timothy Johnson though is determined to kill GCAP's education efforts to promote safe sex.

The homophobia inherent in Johnson's stance is apparent, but the outcome of his efforts is not. The pamphlets on AIDS education that he so strongly objects to are provided to GCAP free of charge and will be distributed to the community whether or not GCAP survives. What is at stake are support groups like the Buddies Program and billboard advertisements listing AIDS hotline numbers. The greatest loss will be to community members seeking information, and to people with AIDS who rely on their buddies for support through the GCAP program.

Unless this situation is changed, and it can be, GCAP could be left bankrupt and without funds to provide services. In order to free up the state funds, pressure must be put on state officials and elected officers. Your letters may be sent to any of the following addresses:

Bernard J. Turnock  
Director of Illinois Dept. of Public Health  
100 W. Randolph Street Suite 6-600  
Chicago, Il. 60601

Gale Fella  
Public Health Admin. C-U Public Health District  
710 N. Neil Street  
P.O.Box 1847  
Champaign, Il. 61820  
217/ 352-796

State Rep. Tim Johnson  
108 Anthony Drive  
Urbana, Il. 61801  
217/ 367-1647 or 367-6092

Your donation to GCAP could make a difference in their continued existence. Donations may be sent to:

Gay Community AIDS Project  
P.O. Box 713  
Champaign, Il. 61820  
217/ 351-AIDS

T. V. Janes

### Coming Out Day Rally Successful

For those of you who missed it (and you ought to be ashamed of yourselves) LGI's rally on the Quad in support of National Coming Out Day was a success. About 100 people showed up for the event on October 11th, which marked the anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington for gay and lesbian rights. Two top UIUC officials participated in the rally, Dean of Students William Riley and Counseling Center Director Thomas Seals. The Rev. Karen Bush, campus minister for the United Church of Christ, also spoke at the rally. Noticeably absent were the hecklers who showed up in force for last year's rally.

If you attended the rally, thanks for your support. If you stayed home, there's always next year.



### LGI to Host Wisconsin "Family"

On the weekend of the 11th and 12th of November LGI will welcome to our fair cities the Ten Percent Society of the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Taking a cue from Miss Manners, LGI extended a cordial invitation to Ten Percent following LGI's visit to Madison last April (it was cold, but fun). Not surprisingly, they accepted our invite—who can resist a trip to the twin cities of Illinois in November?

And what is LGI planning for our northern brothers and sisters? Of course there's the obligatory trip to Chester Street and then, who knows maybe a tour of the Kraft factory. In any event a swell time is bound to be had by all. (And in case you are interested, those Ten Percenters are awfully cute!)

# A Piece of My Brain

by Steen Lawson

We have a tradition on this campus that I would like to question. It has been around a long time and it is a put down to a minority group. No, I'm not talking about the U of I's long standing tradition of insensitivity to lesbians and gays. The tradition of which I speak is Chief Illiniwek. The "Chief" has been with us for over 60 years (not quite as long as the anti Lesbian and Gay one) and it is now time for us to face up to the realities of a majority (straight white people in this case) attempting to portray and represent a minority group to everyone.

At the U of I we make an attempt of portraying Native Americans during the half time of sporting events by dressing a guy up in an authentic costume and having him interpret a traditional dance, because that's what Indians do. What if it were Chief Homo? I can see it now, a guy in pink polyester (70's style) swooshes out from his hiding place in the band to a marching arrangement of "It's Raining Men!" He then proceeds to flit around the field striking poses and screaming "Miss Thang" with a heavy lisp because that's what gays do. Or how about a woman tearing onto the stadium turf on a big Harley Davidson. She's wearing a flannel shirt and jeans and bellows, "Wanna play rugby!" while the band plays a medley of K. D. Lang's greatest hits because that's what lesbians do. Is something being repeated here? To insure authenticity of

the portrayals we could send the young man and woman to our bars so they can meet and talk to real lesbians and gays. After that they can follow us while we do brunch and go shopping. Chief Illini gets that same opportunity to meet the real thing when he visits a reservation.

To further demonstrate the majority portraying the minority try this one. What if the U of I had a majority of homosexuals (too cool) and I had the honor of being the mascot Frankie the Frat Boy. For my half time performance I would strut onto the field wearing a turtleneck and a sweatshirt over it bearing the letters Phi Phi Beta. The band would be playing Billy Idol's "Mony Mony" while I scratched my testicles and scammed for babes. I would do all this (all together now!) because that's what straight guys do! My research would be done at places like Kam's and houses around campus, I could move among them, talk to them and learn their ways.

My point to all of this is to show the inaccuracy and insensitivity of stereotypical portrayals. I have no doubt that our Chief Illiniwek has done his best to learn about Native American cultures and enhance the authenticity of his dance. But what is the right of the majority to present such an image? Is it right to tread upon the sanctity and traditions of another culture; especially one that has been treated so unfairly as both Native Americans and homosexuals have? It shouldn't be difficult for us as members of the lesbian and gay community to identify with Native Americans in C-U. Traditions need not go on forever.

## feature

### Gay in the Library

Starting in July 1989 there is an official "Gay Literature" fund in the university library. The fund is small in dollars but it is composed directly of state revenues.

In August 1989 the title "Gay Literature Bibliographer" become my second title in the university library. This is a small part of my library responsibilities but the title is included in my contract with the Board of Trustees and will be included in official directories.

The symbolism of the "Gay Literature" fund and of the "Gay Literature Bibliographer" title has great significance. The University of Illinois Library has officially recognized the importance of "gay literature" to this research library.

There is no Gay Studies curriculum at present at the

University of Illinois. However the library is rich in resources for both recreational reading and for research. One can find materials on bibliography, religion, sex manuals, law, health, art, cartoons, fiction, poetry, drama, history and travel guides among others. With sorrow the topic of AIDS is a related subject at present and there are more than 700 titles cataloged in the library. There is no one location for these materials such as at the Gay Resource Center of the Lesbian and Gay Illini. Because of the library classification scheme these materials are not found in one concentrated area. For a variety of reasons much of the gay-related material is housed in the general library stacks rather than in a departmental library.

Because of the history of vandalism and missing books, the bookstacks' library staff has housed a variety of material in a closed stacks area so that there is a greater certainty that the desired titles can be supplied to library users. Unfortunately, this also means that there is a delay in "paging" these books and a library user cannot browse the shelves as

Library continued on page 4

Library continued from page 3

can be done in a departmental library. But the materials can be located for you.

I wish to encourage the reader to use the resources available in the university library. The library staff has no interest whatsoever in what material is checked out but does expect it to be returned eventually in reasonably good condition. There is no permanent record of borrower after the material has been returned.

In future columns we will describe in more detail the collections in the University of Illinois Library which are of interest to *People Like Us*. I can be reached at the following location or phone number:

John Littlewood  
200D Library  
244-2059

John Littlewood

## calendar of events

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Sundays                      | Lesbian and Gay Illini general meetings, 4 p.m. in or around the LGI office, 270 Illini Union<br>NOTE: LGI will <u>not</u> meet 11/26<br><br>"Womyn Making Waves,"<br>Noon to 2p.m. on WEFT 90.1 FM<br><br>Women's Night at the Club Cierra,<br>Route 45 North, off I-74. |
| 1st, 3rd & 5th<br>Wednesdays | Grassroots Group meeting,<br>7:30 p.m. at University YWCA   |
| Fridays                      | Gay and Lesbian Coffeehouse,<br>8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Geneva Room<br>of the McKinley Foundation, at the<br>corner of Fifth and Daniel  |
| Wed., Nov. 8                 | AIDS Panel by the Program for the<br>Study of Cultural Values and Ethics,<br>7:30 p.m. at Beckman Center Auditorium   |
| Thur., Nov. 9                | MILLERCOMM90: Global Implications<br>of HIV and AIDS, 8 p.m.<br>at Foellinger Auditorium  |
| Nov., 10-12                  | LGI hosts members of the Univ. of<br>Wisconsin-Madison Ten Percent Society  |
| Sat., Nov. 18                | Illinois Gay and Lesbian Student<br>Networking meeting (tentative)  |

## LGI reports

### From the Co-Presidents

Although we are only a few months into the academic year, as co-presidents we are very excited about the momentum LGI is gaining. The direction of LGI is due only in small part to our roles as co-presidents. Were it not for the hard work and commitment of the entire LGI membership, the successes we have experienced so far this year would not have been possible. Those successes include a beginning of the year orientation meeting attended by more than seventy people, the National Coming Out Day rally, the establishment of liaisons with the Dean of Students Office and the Office of Residential Life, continued close working with the Counseling Center, and of course this newsletter. These successes are only a few examples of the good things going on in LGI but there is still a great deal of work to be done.

As co-presidents of LGI we are committed to getting that work done. With the help and support of the LGI membership we believe that by the time we leave office next year, LGI will be a little bit stronger and the University will be a little bit freer of its homophobic attitudes. But the ability of LGI to achieve these goals is dependent upon the support and involvement of all people committed to gay and lesbian rights. So why not consider becoming actively involved with LGI? No amount of involvement is too small. At the very least, let us know what your feelings are about LGI and how you think we can do a better job.

Here's to continued success!

Kathy Ayotte  
Ian Fielding  
Co-Presidents

## PLU credits

Editor..... Ian Fielding  
Layout..... Andy Webber and  
Ruben Zurita

PLU is published monthly by the Lesbian and Gay Illini, under the supervision of the LGI Resource Committee.

PLU is distributed to several locations, including 270 Illini Union, McKinley Foundation, Little Professor Book Center, Horizon Book Store, Chester Street, University YMCA, Channing-Murray Foundation, and the Counseling Centers in both McKinley Health Center and the Student Services Building.

PLU is paid for by SORF.

# People Like Us



A community newsletter of the Lesbian and Gay Illini



## There's no place like home for the holidays . . . or is there?

Every year around this time the media lets us know what a truly awful time of year this is for many people. We've heard it all before: the holidays are often a time of depression, tension, anger, and confusion. Of course, it doesn't have to be this way and, luckily for Salvation Army sidewalk santas and the Christmas Seal folks, for many people this is the most wonderful time of the year. For many of my gay and lesbian friends, the holidays are neither a Norman Rockwell painting nor a reason to take the big dive off the Altgeld Hall bell tower. Instead, it's a time of ambivalent feelings toward family; a time to be with family because of a sense of obligation and not because of the swell times to be had by all. 'Tis the season to feel guilty.

None of this, of course, is specific only to lesbians and gays. For straights, too, these same feelings about family obligations during the holidays are true. But for us, it's different. Who we are as often as not only heightens the holiday tensions. If we're out to our families then those few days spent with them this time of year becomes a time to

face the truth, something we needn't bother with the other eleven and a half months of the year. If we're not out to our families then, as usual, the truth is ignored or concealed. Either way this is not *It's a Wonderful Life*.

You might be one of the extremely fortunate few. Maybe your family is entirely accepting of you and is perfectly comfortable with having you and your lover share a bed in mommy and daddy's house. For most of us, though, this is not reality. As a way of coping with reality we often avoid our families during the holidays and this in turn only fuels more guilt and depression. What a choice: go home and experience incredible tension or stay where you are and feel guilty.

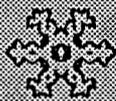
There is another option, however. My unsolicited advice: stay where you are and don't feel guilty. It sounds so simple and yet, it is. But this advice works only insofar as you have a more flexible definition of family. Hans Gernot, a clinical therapist who specializes in holiday trauma says,

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### Spring Semester Support Groups

Lesbian, gay, and bisexual support groups will be forming in late January. The groups typically meet once per week for the duration of the semester. The tone of each group depends on the style of the group's co-facilitators (group leaders who provide some structure to the sessions) as well as the needs of the members. Some groups tend towards a loose structure with discussion on general topics, while other groups are more personal in nature. Some of the topics that usually come up during the weekly sessions include gay and bisexual sexuality, coming out, homophobia, relationships, and AIDS.

Any lesbian, gay or bisexual person is welcome. Groups are often closed after the first week or two, so it's important to contact the co-facilitators by mid-January. For more information contact the Lesbian/Gay Switchboard at 384-8040 on weekdays from 7:00pm to 10:00pm or the Lesbian and Gay Illini at 333-1187.

Joe Beason

## forum

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### Homophobia in the Progressive Community

The progressive community has inarguably been one of the most accepting groups towards lesbians and gays. This step toward openness has led to unique opportunities for dialogue between the two groups. This dialogue though has evolved along a strangely conservative line and it's terminology is not the terminology of either progressives or homosexuals.

The words that progressives and unfortunately many lesbians and gays use to describe the relationship between the two communities are words not of empowerment and affirmation but those of acceptability and validation. The issues discussed are not those shared by both groups, such as civil rights recognition or the fight against oppression.

Instead, the conservative born conceptualization of homosexuality as something that needs to be accepted leads to the implication that homosexuality must be validated by the prevailing heterosexual doctrine. In fact, homosexuality does not need the validation of anyone, hetero-or-homosexual. Homosexuality exists above and beyond any of our acceptance of it. As gays and lesbians we must come to realize that denying homosexuality does not make it go away. As progressives, we must understand that denying the true issues of homosexuality, that of empowerment and civil rights, does not make them go away either. If progressives are going to claim to be true friends of the lesbian and gay community they are going to have to be willing to look at their own true feelings about homosexuality and see how they can get in the way of their ideals. Until this happens there will be a subtle hint of hypocrisy in our relationships.

If gays and lesbians are going to expect the progressive community to give up their homophobia we are going to have to loosen our hold on our own position of homophobia and make the coming out process one of affirmation instead of one of apology. We must stand firm in our own positive definitions of who we are and hold fast to our pride.

In part the inspiration for this article comes from research being done for a *Prairie Free Press* article. Anyone interested in being part of a series of confidential interviews for this article, please contact Tim Janes at 344-4030 or leave a message at the LGI office, 270 Illini Union.

T. V. Janes

## feature

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### Gay in the Library: Lesbian and Gay Travels

Travel guides exist for all types of special groups or activities—wherever an entrepreneur thinks there is a market or profit. Because at least some gay males and lesbians are perceived as having greater than average disposable income, travel guides for people like us exist in fair numbers. If many appear to aim toward gay males and bar listings, this will be left for the reader to ponder.

All travel guides age quickly in their usefulness. The following guides are available in the University of Illinois Library with the latest year of coverage indicated.

*Gayellow pages.* (1989) A comprehensive, long established guide covering not only bars and accommodations but also businesses, churches, health care, lawyers, organizations and publications. Covers USA and Canada. (call number: 306.76025 G255)

*Spartacus guide for gay men.* (1989) Large guide with extensive foreign coverage. (call number: 306.76025 Sp27)

*Bob Damron's address book.* (1990) A long established guide for the USA, Canada and Mexico. (call number: 306.766 B63)

*Places of interest: the atlas of gay travel.* (1990) An international guide with maps and includes outdoor events, sports events, tour operators and calendar events. (call number: 306.766 P69)

*Inn places: USA and worldwide gay accommodations.* (1989) Lists bars and restaurants with detailed accommodations information. (call number: 647.94025 In6)

*London scene: the gay man's guide.* (1987) Some history as well as descriptions (not just listings) of tourist establishments. (call number: 914.2104858 L846)

*Odysseus: an accommodations & travel guide for the gay community (USA/International)* (1989) Lists general state and city tourist information with gay bars and restaurants but emphasizes bed and breakfast establishments to gay resorts. (call number: 917.304 Od9)

Most large American cities have one or more gay newspapers which can be identified in *Gayellow Pages* or other sources. Local travel information may be included. Obtaining a recent sample issue could enhance travel planning.

Bon voyage.

John Littlewood

## A Piece of My Brain

by Steen Lawson

"Dial now guys are waiting," how can you resist such a plea? Especially when those words are topped by a picture of a handsome stud who practically drips sexiness. This kind of phone sex advertisement can be found in any of the big city lesbian/gay newspapers and magazines. In fact, the phone sex ads are everywhere in those publications and many of them have several pages full of various services. This heavy advertising indicates to me a big business that has many users. It also has become part of our culture during the 80's, just as much as Jeff Stryker videos have. Recently it seems that our culture expanded a little beyond strictly gay audiences, no I'm not talking about Jeff Stryker making "straight" videos. This expansion occurred when the *Daily Illini* ran a display advertisement for a gay phone sex party line.

The funny thing about the ad was that the *DI* did not even know it was for gay men. They went so far as to have some women call the line to check it out but said that there was just "some bored guy on the other end," according to *DI* sales manager Sean Bodnar. Did it ever occur to them that for a straight party line to work you need to appeal to both sexes? How would the straight men know to call that line so they could be linked up with women? I guess the only way it could have

worked would be to have another ad right next to it with a gorgeous woman and the caption, "Dial now, babes are waiting" (notice the derogatory language in the ad for the straight men). Anyway, we knew better and recognized the ad for what it was right off the bat.

It is kind of exciting to see advertisements for gays leaping out of the personals section and onto regular pages. Who knows? Maybe we will be seeing more of this in the future. How about a full page color ad in *Newsweek* for vodka. The picture would be of sultry well-dressed man with lots of attitude sitting at a bar talking to the male bartender. The caption would read, "When I say vodka, Ruby, I mean Denaka!!" Or how about an underwear ad in *Sports Illustrated*? Imagine a picture of a locker room full of men in their skivies, while a guy in the center sits on a bench admiring a particularly nice pair on a man across from him. Floating above his head is one of those thought clouds that says, "Nice Calvins." And what chewing gum or breath mint ad couldn't do with a few same-sex couples mashing in front of television viewers nationwide?

Maybe one day we will be able to expect advertisements that are aimed directly at us in the media. After all we do read more than just lesbian/gay journalism. We are also guilty of watching television, especially "Designing Women" and "The Golden Girls." In the mean time it's encouraging that our culture has in a small way left the confines of strictly gay media. After all, the *Daily Illini* did carry an ad for gay phone sex.

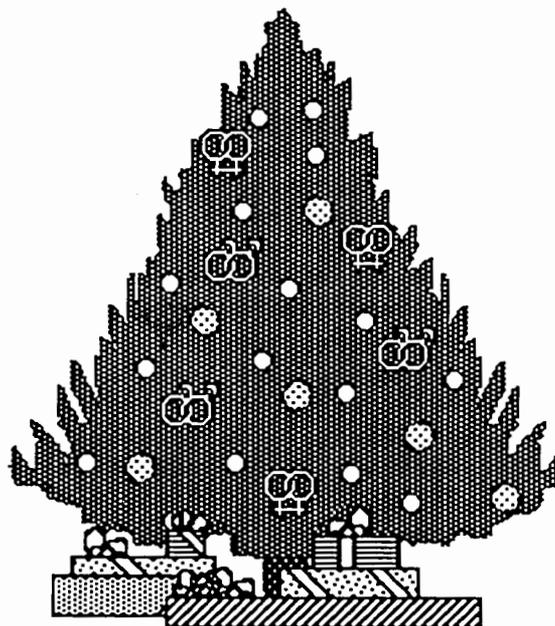
Home continued from page 1

"Inherent for the gay person during this time is an intensification of the desire to be accepted, to be part of the family. When most of my patients who suffered from depression over not going home for the holidays recognized a loving, supportive group of friends around their everyday life and then based their holiday plans on these people, not only did they have a better time, a truer time, but their blood relatives began taking them less for granted."

If a visit with the family over the holidays is inevitable and if this prospect fills you with some anxiety, don't despair. Perhaps you can lower your expectations a bit—Norman Rockwell's paintings and Frank Capra's films are not what the holidays are all about. The holidays are only what you make of them.

Personally, I won't be home for Christmas and that's fine. I'll be spending the holidays with friends. I love my family but I will not miss them. And I will not feel guilty about it either.

Ian Fielding



## LGI reports

### LGI Springs Into 1990

The spring semester is just around the corner and plans are in the works for a number of LGI activities. Things get started in mid-January with our first business meeting of the spring on January 7th. On January 14th, LGI will have a spring orientation meeting for new members.

In February, LGI will celebrate its fifteenth anniversary (and they said it wouldn't last!). We're currently bouncing around ideas on ways to mark this important event (a party, at least, is likely). The next *PLU* will have the details.

March also promises to be an important time for LGI. The first two weeks will mark Lesbian and Gay Awareness Days. This is a change from our traditional Awareness Week in the spring semester. The idea is to spread out the awareness activities over a longer period of time to make the event more manageable as well as to increase participation in the various scheduled activities. Tentative activities include the second annual Alternative Prom as well as a panel discussion on gay life after the university (to be co-sponsored by the Counseling Center and the UIUC Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association). A lot more is planned so stay tuned!

April's main event is a walk-out to an as-of-yet-undetermined university to visit with another lesbian and gay organization. Last year LGI visited the Ten Percent Society at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. These visits are important because it gives us a chance to exchange ideas and information with other organizations. It's also an excuse to get out of town and meet new people. We're not saying which is the more important reason.

Of course, the semester ends in May and for LGI that means election time. The summer issue of *PLU* will let you know who the new officers will be.

That's what's going on in the spring. We'll see you then. Happy holidays from LGI.



## calendar of events

### Sundays

Lesbian and Gay Illini general meetings,  
4 p.m. in or around the LGI office,  
270 Illini Union

**NOTE:** LGI will not meet formally through  
December. Our first meeting of 1990 will be  
January 7th.

"Womyn Making Waves,"  
Noon to 2p.m. on WEFT 90.1 FM

Women's Night at the Club Cierra,  
Route 45 North, off I-74.

### Fridays

Gay and Lesbian Coffeehouse,  
8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Geneva Room  
of the McKinley Foundation, at the  
corner of Fifth and Daniel



## PLU credits

**Editor** ..... Ian Fielding  
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*PLU* is paid for by SORF.

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# People Like Us

A community newsletter of the Lesbian and Gay Illini

## Support and Understanding at the Counseling Center

The UIUC Counseling Center is particularly sensitive to the problems and concerns gay and lesbian students face in our society. Staffed by clinical and counseling psychologists, pre-doctoral interns, practicum counselors, a health educator, minority counselor, research data analyst, reading and study skills specialist, graduate assistants, undergraduate paraprofessionals, and support staff, the Counseling Center is prepared to offer both educational workshops and psychological services to assist students in various ways. We value the affirmation and celebration of individual differences.

We value gay and lesbian students as creative contributors to our society and we wish to help individuals begin to overcome the resulting low self esteem inherent in being an "invisible minority." We recognize that students are at varying stages of coming out, ranging from struggling with to feeling positive about their sexual orientation, and letting friends, family, or colleagues at work know who you are. Some may be facing frightening health issues. The homophobia prevalent in our society, the externally induced violence against gays and lesbians, the resulting shame and internalized homophobia and potential for self-inflicted abuse are all unnecessary ills that gay and lesbian students must find ways to overcome and survive in order to begin to thrive in their lives.

We at the Counseling Center can help. Call for an appointment at 333-3704, and you will meet that day or the next with a self-identified gay affirmative counselor who can help you clarify your concerns and find the best available campus or community resources to assist you in beginning to address your concerns and give you support.

The Counseling Center has two locations on campus: on the second floor of Student Services Building and on the third floor of McKinley Health Center. Ask your friends who they'd recommend, take a deep breath, and give yourself an opportunity to "reclaim" who you are in a positive way!

Judy L. Ellickson, Ph. D.

## Happy Birthday, LGI!!

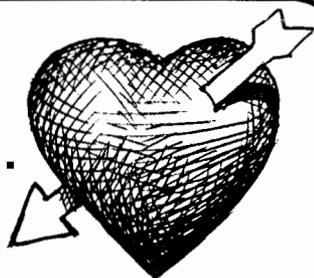
Lesbian and Gay Illini will be 15 years old on February 12, 1990. As all good dykes and faggots should know, the modern gay liberation movement began on June 28, 1969 (notice how appropriate '69 is), when both men and women fought back against what was then a routine police raid of the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City. Within about a year afterwards, the first ever organization for homosexuals in this area came into existence when the Gay Liberation Front was formed at UIUC. GLF was very leftist in its political views, and pioneered many gay liberation activities in Champaign-Urbana. However, it eventually disappeared from the scene.

Kevin Cleeland, a UIUC student, got tired of waiting for someone to revive GLF and started something himself. He ran a classified ad in the *Daily Illini* directed to gay students of both sexes and gave his home phone number. (He was not out to his roommates at the time.) The people who contacted him held their first meeting as the Gay Students Alliance on February 12, 1975, which is why we count that as the LGI birthday. GSA changed its name to Gay Illini in September of 1975 and used that name for many years. After using Gay and Lesbian Illini for awhile, the current (and final, I hope) name of Lesbian and Gay Illini was adopted in 1987.

A black lesbian, Faustina Robinson, helped Kevin get the group started, so I have always thought of Faustina and Kevin as our founding parents. Although I lived in Champaign during the GLF days, I did not come out completely until after attending a GSA forum on religion and homosexuality in April of 1975. LGI has been responsible for many of the positive things in my life,

see Birthday on page 2

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## news

Birthday continued from front page

which is why I continue to work with it. As many can warn you, I am always ready to tell stories about our history, but you need to talk to Ed Lisowski about the really early days since he was very active in the Gay Liberation Front, while I was still in the closet.



Robert Michael  
Doyle

## News of GCAP's Plight Spreads

The January 18th issue of *Windy City Times*, a Chicago gay and lesbian weekly newspaper, included a lengthy article on the financial troubles of the Gay Community AIDS Project (GCAP). Late last year, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDHP), at the behest of State Representative Tim Johnson, cancelled a \$20,000 grant that GCAP was counting on to fund most of its AIDS educational services. Johnson, a self-proclaimed homophobe, claimed that GCAP was distributing obscene material that was falling into the hands of school children.

To date, GCAP has raised \$7,000 from individual and organizational contributions and hopes to raise another \$12,000 this year. GCAP has launched a letter writing campaign to IDHP and state representatives to see if the state health authorities will change their position and reinstate GCAP's funding. If the campaign fails, GCAP may seek legal action.

Letters should be sent to Dr. Bernard Turnock, IDHP, 100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 6-600, Chicago, 60601, as well as state and federal representatives and senators. Contributions can be sent to GCAP, P.O. Box 713, Champaign, 61820.

## AIDS Quilt to Visit Illinois

NAMES Project/Illinois has announced that 2,300 panels of the national AIDS quilt will be displayed at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield from April 18th to the 22nd. The display has been timed to coincide with the return of the Illinois General Assembly from the primary election break in April.

NAMES Project/Illinois is asking for hundreds of volunteers to assist in the four day display. East central Illinois residents interested in helping with the display can contact LGI at 333-1187 for more information or Mark Michaels, East Central Illinois Coordinator, at 328-0032.

Financial assistance is also needed. Contributions can be sent to NAMES Project/Illinois, NAMES Project Host Committee, P.O. Box 5182, Springfield IL, 62705. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

## Looking for Answers

When I was growing up I was fortunate to have parents who realized the importance of allowing their children the opportunity to make certain decisions for themselves. Whatever their shortcomings in the parenting process, I have always been grateful that my parents strove to make their children independent thinkers and actors. Lately, however, it has become apparent to me that the very independence that my parents fostered within me has been responsible for some confusion in my life.

My mother and father were not religious people. As a result, religion never played a role in my upbringing. Although I can offer no evidence to support this assertion, it seems to me that the extent to which we have religious convictions as adults is often dependent upon the religious convictions of our parents. While religion is a matter of choice, our families go a long way in determining the choices we make. Since my parents did not make religion an issue in our household, believing that this was something we had to decide entirely on our own, my preconceptions concerning religion were few.

Not long ago I met someone for whom religion has become increasingly important. Without realizing it and without proselytizing, this person encouraged me to examine my own thoughts on religion. It occurred to me that my beliefs and feelings on the subject are, at best, ill-defined. At various points in my life I have traveled the conviction continuum from uncommitted agnostic to occasional believer. Believer in what? That's the confusing part; I'm not sure what to call it. And whatever it has been, it has not been consistent.

Whatever the source of my confusion I believe that it has little to do with my being gay. I know many gay men and lesbians who are religious in one way or another while others I know are not. I can understand why many gay men and lesbians reject religion. Most mainstream religions have traditionally been less than affirming of homosexuality. Still, while homosexuality is incompatible with some religions, I don't believe it is incompatible with a religious life. My friend mentioned above told me that he realized being gay is a gift. I like that idea, but I'm not altogether certain of the source of that gift.

I think I'm going to do some exploring. I don't know what I will find because I don't know exactly what it is I'm looking for. I suppose I want answers; the problem is I haven't defined the questions. Maybe that's the way it's supposed to be. Maybe my parents were even smarter than I thought.

Ian Fielding

## forum

### The Politics of Giving Blood

*Editor's note: The following letter was written by LGI co-president Kathy Ayotte to H. W. Tredway, administrative director of the Champaign County Bloodbank:*

Dear Mr. Tredway,

Recently when I went to donate blood, one of the questions on your form struck me as not only vague but potentially misleading to the general public as well. The question I am referring to reads: "Have you ever been exposed to a patient with AIDS?" The most problematic part of this question is the word "exposed." What exactly is meant by this word? As it reads now, this word very much fosters the popular misconception that one can get this virus merely by being in the same general area as a person with AIDS. However, as you are probably aware, this disease can only be transmitted through the sharing of bodily fluids; primarily by sexual contact.

A possible solution to both the problems of ambiguity and misleading phraseology might be a rephrasing of this question, such as:

"Is there any possibility that you may have contracted the AIDS virus?" or

"If you are involved in taking care of AIDS patients, is there any possibility of shared needles or bodily fluid transmission?" depending on what exactly you wish to know.

I very much hope that you will take this suggestion for possible revisions under consideration and I will be looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Ayotte

*Mr. Tredway responds:*

Dear Ms. Ayotte:

Thank you for your recent letter.

All donors of this blood center are asked to complete the confidential questionnaire as the initial stage of the donor eligibility process. The questions you specifically mentioned are designed to be open-ended and to generate further questions by the donor if there is any uncertainty of what is being asked. The content of these questions is somewhat standardized among blood centers, stemming to a great extent from the requirements of various public and self-regulatory agencies. This is done in the interest of a safe blood supply only.

I appreciate your comments, and the concerns which you have raised. Your letter will be kept on file so that it might be reviewed from time to time when these question are being revised.

Please contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,  
H. W. Tredway

*Sounds like the old "everybody does it" argument.*

## calendar of events

Sundays	Lesbian and Gay Illini general meetings, 4 p.m. in or around the LGI office, 270 Illini Union
	"Womyn Making Waves," Noon to 2p.m. on WEFT 90.1 FM
	Women's Night at the Club Cierra, Route 45 North, off I-74
Fridays	Gay and Lesbian Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., McKinley Foundation
Sat., Feb. 3	GCAP Variety Show and Dance, 9 p.m. at the Channing-Murray Foundation
Sun., Feb. 4	Heartland MCC worship service, 5 p.m. at the McKinley Foundation Chapel
Wed., Feb. 7	GCAP Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Canterbury House (open to the public)
Mon., Feb. 12	Lesbian and Gay Illini's 15th Anniversary
Sun., Feb. 18	Heartland MCC worship service, 5 p.m. at the McKinley Foundation Chapel
Mon., Feb. 19	Integrity/East Central Illinois worship service, 7:30 p.m. at Canterbury House
March 2-16	LGI's Lesbian and Gay Awareness Days
Fri., Mar. 2	2nd Annual Alternative Prom, 7 p.m.-Midnight in Illini Union Room 314

## LGI reports

Mark your calendars for Lesbian and Gay Awareness Days, March 2nd through March 16th. The kickoff event will be the Second Annual Alternative Prom at 7:00 pm on Friday, March 2nd. Other events include presentations on March 8th and 9th by Dr. Louie Crew of Rutgers University. Louie is the founder of Integrity, the organization for lesbian and gay Episcopalians. His presentations will be co-sponsored by Integrity/East Central Illinois, the Program for the Study of Cultural Values and Ethics, and the Departments of English, Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Educational Policy Studies. On the evening of March 9th, the New Art Theater will present a special showing of *Apartment Zero*. Some of you will remember this film from the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival in Chicago. A talent show is planned to benefit the Gay Community AIDS Project on March 10th. And on March 13th the UIUC Counseling Center and the UIUC Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association (GALA) will be co-sponsoring a panel discussion by members of GALA on gay life after the university. The March issue of *PLU* will provide a complete schedule of events including places and times. Make plans now to take part in the Awareness Days!

The LGI office, 270 Illini Union, is staffed at the following times:

Monday	Noon-1 p.m.
Tuesday	Noon-1 p.m., 2-3 p.m.
Wednesday	10-10:45 a.m., Noon-1 p.m.
Thursday	11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 2-3 p.m.
Friday	Noon-1 p.m., 2-3 p.m.

## local resources

### **AIDS**

Gay Community AIDS Project, Box 713, Champaign, 351-AIDS. Information, speakers and support services.

AIDS information in Illinois: 1-800-AID-AIDS.

Champaign-Urbana Public Health, 710 N. Neil, Champaign, 352-7961. Anonymous HIV-antibody testing with counseling, STD clinic.

University of Illinois, McKinley Health Center, 1109 S. Lincoln, Urbana, 333-2701. Gay supportive doctors, HIV anonymous testing; contact Mina Coy at 244-7471.

### **Academic**

Lesbian and Gay Illini, 270 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green, Urbana, 333-1187. Social, educational and political group, open to all.

Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau, a committee of Lesbian and Gay Illini.

### **Arts**

Art Theatre, 126 W. Church, Champaign, 351-7368.

Frequent gay and lesbian films.

Champaign-Urbana Men's Chorus for gay and gay supportive men. For info call the Switchboard, 384-8040.

### **Bars**

Chester Street, 63 Chester, Champaign, 356-5607. Dance and conversation bar, mixed but more gay than not.

Club Cierra, Route 45 N., off I-74, Urbana, 367-1082.

Lesbian private party, "The Chosen Few," on Sunday evenings only.

### **Books**

Horizon Bookstore, 517 S. Goodwin, Urbana, 328-2988.

Illini Union Book Center, 1401 W. Green, Urbana; 333-3903.

Jane Adams Book Shop, 208 S. Neil, Champaign; 356-2555.

Little Professor Book Center, 505 E. Green, Champaign, 384-3094.

### **Erotica**

Holiday Video, 213 S. Neil, Champaign. Call Switchboard, 384-8040, for more information.

### **Political**

Grassroots Group for Second Class Citizens, womyn's group devoted to the use of direct action to work for social change. (Write in care of LPC for further info.)

### **Publications**

GCAPsule. Periodical of the Gay Community AIDS Project. (See listing under AIDS.)

Lavender Prairie News. Newsletter of the Lavender Prairie Collective. (See listing under Social.)

People Like Us. Newsletter of Lesbian and Gay Illini. (See listing under Academic.)

### **Religion**

Integrity/East Central Illinois, Canterbury House, 1011 S. Wright, Champaign, 344-1924. Episcopalians and Roman Catholics. Meets third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Heartland Metropolitan Community Church, McKinley Foundation Chapel, Champaign, 356-0823. Meets first & third Sunday of each month at 5 p.m.

### **Social**

Alternate Current, P.O. Box 2641, Station A, Champaign.

Mens social group, potlucks, trips.

Gay and Lesbian Coffeehouse, McKinley Foundation, 5th and Daniel, Champaign. Friday evenings from 8 to 10 in the Geneva Room.

Lavender Prairie Collective (LPC), P.O. Box 2096, Station A, Champaign. Womyn's support and literary group.

### **Support**

Alcoholics Anonymous and ALANON/COA for lesbians and gays, McKinley Foundation, Champaign, 356-0823. Meets Fridays at 7 p.m.

East-Central Illinois Gay/Lesbian Switchboard, 384-8040. Provides confidential peer counseling; medical, legal and religious referrals; and info about local organizations and social opportunities. Weeknights from 7 to 10.

Gay and Lesbian Support Groups, McKinley Foundation. Call Switchboard, 384-8040, for info.

GCAP. (See listing under AIDS.)

PWA and Worried Well support groups. Call Charlie Schweitzer, 344-0297.

UIUC Counseling Center, 337 McKinley Health Center, 333-8360, or 206 Student Services Bldg., 333-3704.

## PLU credits

**Editor:** Ian Fielding

**Layout & Graphics:** Andy Webber, Ruben Zurita

**Contributors:** Judy L. Ellickson, Ph. D., Robert Michael Doyle, Kathleen Ayotte, Ian Fielding

PLU is published monthly by the Lesbian and Gay Illini, under the supervision of the LGI Resource Committee. If you would like to subscribe or contribute to the newsletter, drop us a note at PLU/LGI, 270 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green St., Urbana IL 61801. A \$3.00 donation will help defray mailing costs. LGI is a not-for-profit Registered Student Organization at UIUC.



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**PLU is paid for by SORF.**

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1990: 5 March

# People Like Us

A community newsletter of the Lesbian and Gay Illini

## Lesbian And Gay Awareness Days Are Here!

Once again, Lesbian and Gay Illini is proud to present Lesbian and Gay Awareness Days, March 2-16. It's that time of the year when we think it's especially important to take a moment to reflect on who we are and to celebrate. This year, LGI is planning a number of important events to make the Awareness Days the most memorable yet. And, in the spirit of a truly commercial activity, we have sponsors. The Office of Residential Life, the office of Dean of Students, the Counseling Center, the RHA - Multicultural Awareness Committee, the SGA Campus Affairs Committee, and the UIUC Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association have all attached their good names to the Awareness Days. So make plans to take part in any or all of the following events:

### Friday, March 2

The Second Annual Alternative Prom, 7:00 pm to midnight, 314 Illini Union. Those of you who attended the Prom last year will remember the great time that was had by all. This year it promises to be even better. What makes this event particularly important is that it is being co-sponsored by the Illini Union Board. Tickets are \$4 and can be purchased at the Illini Union Ticket Office, the LGI Office or at the door. Bring a date, bring a friend, or attend solo but make plans to



enjoy an evening of dancing and refreshments in an atmosphere of fun and acceptance.

### Tuesday, March 6

A Panel Discussion on Coming Out, 8:00 pm, University YMCA, room K1. This event is sponsored by the Counseling Center and will feature a diverse panel of speakers from the LGI Speakers Bureau discussing their experiences with the coming out process. Feel free to simply listen or to share your experiences and insights on this very important subject for all lesbians and gay men.

### Wednesday, March 7

Contemporary Gay Life. The great thing about this event is that you don't even have to leave home to experience it. "Contemporary Gay Life" is a video production of the Counseling Center featuring a lively panel discussion with U of I students and community members about being gay, lesbian, and heterosexual. 7:00 pm on Channel 10.

### Thursday, March 8 and Friday, March 9

A visit to UIUC by Louie Crew of Rutgers University, founder of Integrity. Integrity is the organization

of gay and lesbian Episcopalians. Louie's visit is an especially important event in the Awareness Days. His background is, to say the least, diverse. Not only did Louie found Integrity in 1974, he has written extensively for such publications as *Asia Week*, *Christian Century*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Saturday Review* and *Humanist*. A poet and long time gay activist, Louie has written numerous computer programs and has taught extensively in the area of composition. Louie will deliver two talks during his visit. On March 8, the topic will be "Storming the Temple or When They Think God's on Their Side," 8:00 pm, 213 Gregory Hall. A reception will follow at Canterbury House. On March 9, the topic will be "What's Gay about Gay and Lesbian Literature?" 1:00 pm, 273 Illini Union. Louie's visit is co-sponsored by Integrity/East Central Illinois, the Episcopal Church Foundation at the U of I, the Program for the Study of Cultural Values and Ethics, the Program for the Study of Religion, the Department of English, the Department of Philosophy, and the Department of Educational Policy Studies.

### Friday, March 9

*Apartment Zero* opens at the New Art Theatre. This film was the see Awareness on page 2

## Walk For LIFE

The Prairie AIDS Foundation will hold its 2nd Annual "Walk for LIFE," April 21, 1990. The walk-a-thon begins at 9 a.m. in Hessel Park in Champaign, until approximately 11 a.m. Contact Gary Schumaker to register: 351-7659 or 356-7562.

PAF offers a variety of services for people with AIDS. The walk-a-thon is designed to raise funds to support residential-related services for people with AIDS and with other AIDS-related disabilities in East Central Illinois. The foundation welcomes volunteers.



## Springfield QUILT Showing Postponed

Last month we reported that the NAMES Project/Illinois would be displaying 2,300 panels of the AIDS Quilt next month in Springfield. Don't bother making plans to attend. The dates have been changed to mid-September. We'll keep you posted.

## letters

### Friendly Words about LGI's Birthday

Dear People Like Us Editor,

I am writing on the occasion of Lesbian and Gay Illini's fifteenth birthday. It is a marker on the road leading to equality for all Americans, and it provides us with an opportunity to stop, for a moment, and reflect on the distance traveled and the miles still to go.

Conviction that religion, sexual orientation, and skin color should not be impediments to a person's social or professional fulfillment is something we all share. It takes courage to demonstrate that conviction, to share a personal position with the world. It takes courage to stand and say, "This is who I am: I am part of your community and you cannot deny me." It takes courage: for every one person touched, there are one hundred who will shrink back, turn away, or approach your position with hostility.

As a woman, as a Jew, as a person who has sometimes had the courage to make the world safer for others, and sometimes not, I am grateful for this day, for it renews my hope, and I can say, "The translation of righteous, personal conviction into social action brings change." In fifteen years, LGI has effected many changes, and has created a community on campus out of a people alienated by an intolerant world. There is a long way to travel yet, but let us enjoy, now, the view from here. The rocky road has given way to grass. Let us inhale the sweet aroma of true change before putting our feet on the road again.

My best wishes to your readers on this occasion.

Sincerely,

Rowena Arbiter,  
Program Director,  
Hillel Foundation

## Awareness

continued from front page

smash hit of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. The film stars Hart Bochner and Colin Firth and is set in Buenos Aires with English dialogue. Bill Staments of *Windy City Times* offers this description, "*Apartment Zero* is a psychological intrigue precipitated by an idiosyncratic choice of roommates. . . . The apartment designated "Zero" is occupied by Adrian LeDuc (Firth), a crypto-Englishman who runs an unsuccessful cinema. . . . The roommate (Bochner), in leather and Levis, looks like a matinee idol who is a more pleasingly proportioned Rambo. Captured footage exposes this dreamy chameleon as the Ugliest American as this clever psychodrama unfolds." Sounds like good stuff. Screenings at 4:30, 7:00 and 9:30 p.m.

### Saturday, March 10

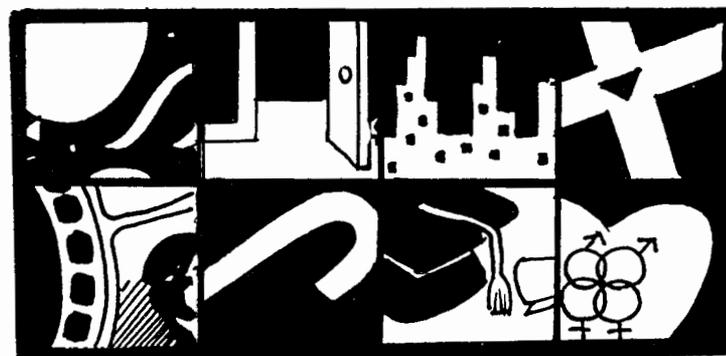
A variety show benefit for the Gay Community AIDS Project, 8:00 pm at the McKinley Foundation, Fifth and Daniel, Champaign. By now nearly everyone is familiar with the financial problems of GCAP. This show presents a great opportunity to be entertained and at the same time to help one of the community's most important organizations through some difficult times.

### Tuesday, March 13

A Panel Discussion on Lesbian and Gay Life After the University, 8:00 pm, University YMCA, room K1. Believe it or not, someday you will graduate. Come and listen to members of the UIUC Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association (UIUC GALA) relate some of their experiences being lesbian or gay on the job, at home, and in relationships beyond the university. Co-sponsored by GALA and the Counseling Center.

### Wednesday, March 14

Relationship Workshop for Lesbians and Gay Men, 8:00 pm, University YMCA, room K1. We mean, of course, lesbian relationships and gay male relationships, not relation-



ships between lesbians and gay men. (But maybe such a workshop wouldn't be a bad idea.) Sponsored by the Counseling Center.

That's what we're planning. There ought to be something for everybody. See you during the Awareness Days!!

Ian Fielding

## GAY in the Library



Everywhere, in all time, successful.

Lesbian and gay men have been present and successful throughout history. Visible successes have occurred despite repression, discrimination, and many homosexual's ability (and desire) to remain closeted and an invisible minority.

In addition to individual biographies of gays, the following works can be found in the university library to bring you history and stories of hundreds of gay men and lesbians who have enriched us all and compose part of our heritage.

*Encyclopedia of homosexuality*. Edited by Wayne Dynes. 2 volumes. 1990. (Call number : 306.76603 En19)

*Gay and lesbian history on stamps : Achilles to Zeus : alphabetically listed utilizing Scott catalog numbers*. Compiled by Paul Henefeld. 1982. (Call number : 769.563 H392g)

*The gay book of days : an evocatively illustrated who's who of who is, was, may have been, probably was, and most certainly seems to have been gay during the past 5,000 years*. By Martin Greif. 1982. (Call number 306.7660922 G71g)

*Gay men & women who enriched the world*. By Thomas Cowan. 1988. (Call number : 306.7660922 C838g)

*Homosexuals in history : a study of ambivalence in society, literature, and the arts*. By A. L. Rowse. 1983. (Call number : 301.4243 R79h 1983)

*Out of all time ; a gay and lesbian history*. By Terry Boughner. 1988. (Call number : 306.7660922 B662o)

Treasure your Gay Pride.

John Littlewood

## calendar of events

Sundays	Lesbian and Gay Illini general meetings, 4 p.m. in or around the LGI office, 270 Illini Union
	"Womyn Making Waves," Noon to 2p.m. on WEFT 90.1 FM
	Women's Night at the Club Cierra, Route 45 North, off I-74
Fridays	Gay and Lesbian Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., McKinley Foundation
Fri., Mar. 2	Alternative Prom, 7 p.m. to midnight, 314 Illini Union
	Members of Mens Chorus perform in Gilbert & Sullivan's "Cox & Box;" part of Scenes from the World's Greatest Operettas, 8 p.m., Tryon Festival Theatre, Krannert Center
Sun., Mar. 4	Heartland MCC worship service, 5 p.m., McKinley Foundation Small Chapel
Mon., Mar. 5	Integrity / East Central Illinois worship service. 7:30 p.m., Canterbury House
Tue., Mar. 6	A Discussion on Coming Out. 8 p.m., University YMCA
Wed., Mar. 7	"Contemporary Gay Life," 7 p.m., Channel 10
Thu., Mar. 8	Louie Crew, 8 p.m., 213 Gregory Hall
Fri., Mar. 9	Louie Crew, 1 p.m., 273 Illini Union
	<i>Apartment Zero</i> opens at the New Art Theatre
Sat., Mar. 10	Variety Show benefit for GCAP. 8 p.m., McKinley Church
Tue., Mar. 13	A Discussion on Lesbian and Gay Life After the University. 8 p.m., University YMCA
Wed., Mar. 14	Relationship Workshop for Lesbians and Gay Men. 8 p.m., University YMCA
Sun., Mar. 18	Heartland MCC worship service. 5 p.m., McKinley Foundation Small Chapel

## LGI reports

Although the spring semester is well under way, LGI is always interested in new members. If you've been wondering what we're all about, why not stop by our office or give us a call and talk to one of our members. Better yet, attend one of our weekly meetings (Sundays at 4:00 pm in or around the LGI office). Anyone can join LGI, although we do have modest requirements for those who wish to be voting members. You don't have to be interested in changing the world to benefit from LGI. If all you want to do is to meet people, then LGI is a great place to start. Check us out.

And speaking of checking things out, last semester the LGI Resource Committee reorganized the book collection of the LGI Resource Center. After this rather time consuming

task was completed something became apparent: we have an old collection. If you would like to help us update our collection we'd be more than happy to hear from you. Donations of any materials relating to lesbians and gay men are needed if the Resource Center is to continue to serve the public. And remember, you don't have to be a member of LGI to make use of our lending library. Any person is welcome to check out materials. In addition to our book collection, we also subscribe to a number of magazines and periodicals that are of interest to the lesbian and gay community. Stop by our office and take a look at what we have and you have anything in your collection that you don't need anymore, we hope you'll consider contributing it to our collection.

## A Piece of My Brain



Lesbian and Gay Awareness Days are here with the promise of helping to set the pace for a new decade of growth and understanding in our community. In fact, I believe that the immediate future is so bright that all of C-U's homos will have to wear shades. Of course, none of this comes without hard work and there may be a few setbacks, but in general it is onward and upward. What are the events that we can anticipate having positive effect on the lives of all homosexuals? I would like to offer a few of my own predictions of some changes we may see in the coming years on the national and local scenes.

Let me first say that I doubt anything really good will happen for us until about the middle of January 1993. It will be then that the nation will have laid to rest the last vestige of Reagan/Bushism. President Bill Bradley and Vice-President Pat Schroeder will begin by righting all wrongs of the past. Their first move will be to channel all SDI funds to the AIDS Defense Initiative. By the mid 90's we will have an amendment to the Civil Rights Act prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. Bill and Pat will then set up the Lesbian and Gay Cultural Agency (LAGCA for short) and appoint gay rights activist James Thompson as its head. By the way, Jesse Helms lost his last reelection bid when he was caught salivating while looking at the nudes on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

Things are going to be even more exciting right here at home. I predict that the U of I will have another major athletics scandal. After winning the National Championship in football the team's star quarterback will admit that he just can't keep his hands off the center's butt. "You'd think by the feel of it that he's a tight end," says the QB. The two announce their forthcoming wedding which takes advantage of the state's new same sex marriage law. The Illinettes sport their new image by wearing tank tops, cut-off jeans (not too short) and Birkenstock sandals while claiming that they never meant to turn on any men with their performances. Needless to say, LGI will have a cheering section at all home football games. Tourism in C-U increases after Chanute AFB is turned into a homosexual theme park. The park includes a Disco Land, Isle of Lesbos, and The Wild West.

But none of this will happen unless we all get together and show our community, state, and nation that we are a viable part of society. We need to show those around us that we are proud to be lesbian or gay. LGAD is the forum that we can use to express pride, learn about ourselves, and show others who we are. And besides, with all of these exciting events for us to look forward to, we should all resolve to help build the future. I know I can't wait to put on my sunglasses.

Steen A. Lawson

## local resources

### AIDS

Gay Community AIDS Project, Box 713, Champaign, 351-AIDS. Information, speakers and support services.

AIDS information in Illinois: 1-800-AID-AIDS.

Champaign-Urbana Public Health, 710 N. Neil, Champaign, 352-7961. Anonymous HIV-antibody testing with counseling, STD clinic.

University of Illinois, McKinley Health Center, 1109 S. Lincoln, Urbana, 333-2701. Gay supportive doctors, HIV anonymous testing: contact Mina Coy at 244-7471.

### Academic

Lesbian and Gay Illini, 270 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green, Urbana, 333-1187. Social, educational and political group, open to all.

Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau, a committee of Lesbian and Gay Illini.

### Arts

Art Theatre, 126 W. Church, Champaign, 351-7368. Frequent gay and lesbian films.

Champaign-Urbana Men's Chorus for gay and gay supportive men. For info call the Switchboard, 384-8040.

### Bars

Chester Street, 63 Chester, Champaign, 356-5607. Dance and conversation bar, mixed but more gay than not.

Club Cierra, Route 45 N., off I-74, Urbana, 367-1082. Lesbian private party, "The Chosen Few," on Sunday evenings only.

### Books

Horizon Bookstore, 517 S. Goodwin, Urbana, 328-2988.

Illini Union Book Center, 1401 W. Green, Urbana; 333-3903.

Jane Adams Book Shop, 208 S. Neil, Champaign; 356-2555.

Little Professor Book Center, 505 E. Green, Champaign, 384-3094.

### Erotica

Holiday Video, 213 S. Neil, Champaign. Call Switchboard, 384-8040, for more information.

### Political

Grassroots Group for Second Class Citizens, womyn's group devoted to the use of direct action to work for social change. (Write in care of LPC for further info.)

### Publications

GCAPsule. Periodical of the Gay Community AIDS Project. (See listing under AIDS.)

Lavender Prairie News. Newsletter of the Lavender Prairie Collective. (See listing under Social.)

### Religion

Integrity/East Central Illinois, Canterbury House, 1011 S. Wright, Champaign, 344-1924. Episcopalians and Roman Catholics. Meets third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Heartland Metropolitan Community Church, McKinley Foundation Chapel, Champaign, 356-0823. Meets first & third Sunday of each month at 5 p.m.

### Social

Alternate Current, P.O. Box 2641, Station A, Champaign. Mens social group, potlucks, trips.

Gay and Lesbian Coffeehouse, McKinley Foundation, 5th and Daniel, Champaign. Friday evenings from 8 to 10 in the Geneva Room.

Lavender Prairie Collective (LPC), P.O. Box 2096, Station A, Champaign. Womyn's support and literary group.

### Support

Alcoholics Anonymous and ALANON/ACOA for lesbians and gays, McKinley Foundation, Champaign, 356-0823. Meets Fridays at 7 p.m.

East-Central Illinois Gay/Lesbian Switchboard, 384-8040. Provides confidential peer counseling; medical, legal and religious referrals; and info about local organizations and social opportunities. Weeknights from 8 to 10 p.m.

Gay and Lesbian Support Groups, McKinley Foundation.

# ZERO

# APARTMENT



HART BOCHNER  
COLIN FIRTH

THE SUMMIT COMPANY LIMITED Presents A STEPHEN J. COLE Production  
"MARTIN DONOVAN" From HART BOCHNER COLIN FIRTH  
"APARTMENT ZERO" Music By ELIA CMIRAL Edited By CONRAD M. GONZALEZ  
Associate Producer EZEQUIEL DONOVAN and BRIAN REYNOLDS  
Executive Producer STEPHEN J. COLE Written and Produced By MARTIN DONOVAN and DAVID KOEPP  
Directed By MARTIN DONOVAN  
SKOURAS PICTURES  
RECORDED IN ULTRA-STEREO  
ACADEMY ENTERTAINMENT

**LIMITED ENGAGEMENT!**

Starts March 9 -- One week!

**THE NEW ART THEATRE**

CHURCH & NEIL, CHAMPAIGN 351-7368

**(2:00) 4:30 7:00 9:30**

( ) = also Sat, Sun matinee

Call Switchboard, 384-8040, for more info.

Gay and Lesbian Youth Support Group, McKinley Foundation. Call Switchboard, 384-8040, for info. Meets Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m.

GCAP. (See listing under AIDS.)

PWA and Worried Well support groups. Call Charlie Schweitzer, 344-0297.

UIUC Counseling Center, 337 McKinley Health Center, 333-8360, or 206 Student Services Bldg., 333-3704.



## PLU credits

Editor: Ian Fielding

Layout & Graphics: Andy Webber, Ruben Zurita

PLU is published monthly by the Lesbian and Gay Illini, under the supervision of the LGI Resource Committee. If you would like to subscribe or contribute to the newsletter, drop us a note at PLU/LGI, 270 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green St., Urbana IL 61801. A \$3.00 donation will help defray mailing costs. LGI is a not-for-profit Registered Student Organization at UIUC.

PLU is distributed to several locations, including 270 Illini Union, McKinley Foundation, Little Professor Book Center, Horizon Book Store, Chester Street, University YMCA, Channing-Murray Foundation, and the Counseling Centers in both McKinley Health Center and the Student Services Building.

PLU is paid for in part by SORF.

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1990: 6  
April / May

# People Like Us

A community newsletter of the Lesbian and Gay Illini

## Come Out And "Walk For Life"

The Prairie AIDS Foundation of Champaign-Urbana will hold its second annual "Walk for Life" on Sunday, April 22, for the purpose of raising funds to support residential related services for persons with AIDS (PWA's) and other people adversely affected by HIV infection in East Central Illinois.

The walk will begin and end at Hessel Park located on the 500

block of West Kirby Avenue in Champaign. The route used will be six miles long. Registration will begin at 1:00 pm and step-off will be at 2:00 pm. There will be water stations along the route as well as refreshments at Hessel Park.

Both walkers and sponsors for walkers are needed. Prizes will be awarded to walkers who solicit the most contributions and

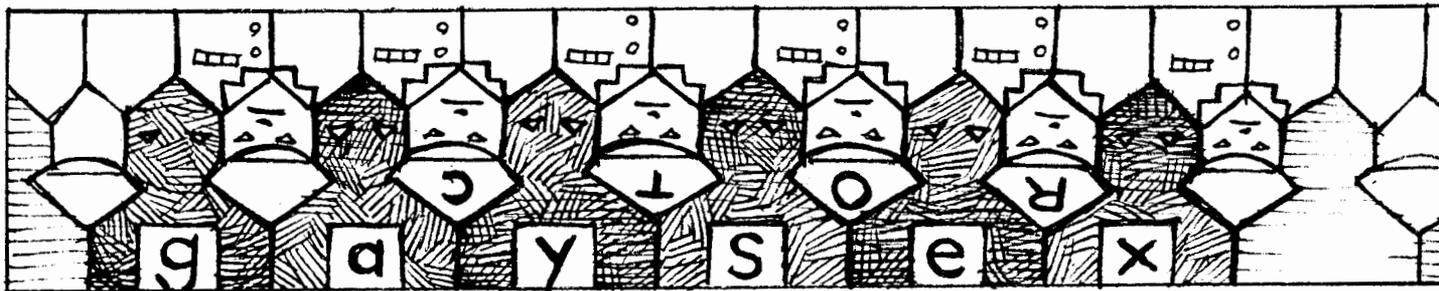
T-shirts will be given to the first 200 registrants. Out of town residents are encouraged to participate.

Prairie AIDS Foundation was established by members of the Gay Community AIDS Project and other persons in the Champaign-Urbana area to provide housing for PWA's in need. Although no housing has been acquired yet, case management

services by a paid professional are being provided to several PWA's already. These services are funded through a government grant and through private donations.

For more information, call the Prairie AIDS Foundation at (217) 359-0222 or GCAP at (217) 351-2437.

Robert Michael Doyle



## ACT-UP Hits C-U: Those Pesky Queers Are Here!

A local chapter of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, ACT-UP, has recently formed in Urbana-Champaign. "Those Pesky Queers," the name of the group, has already performed two actions.

The first action targeted the Champaign County Republican Committee Meeting on April 2 at the Urbana Courthouse. Four demonstrators, two men and two women, disrupted the meeting when they unveiled t-shirts emblazoned with the words "I love gay sex" during the speech nominating State Rep. Timothy Johnson for chair of the county committee. At the same time,

three other demonstrators tossed flyers into the surprised audience explaining the purpose of the action. Nearly one-hundred and fifty committee members and spectators were packed into the courtroom where the meeting took place. After the action, the meeting was closed to everyone but committee members and all spectators and the media were forced to leave the room.

According to Those Pesky Queers' press release, Johnson was targeted because he "is unfit to hold the office of Republican county chair because he opposes human rights." Johnson was responsible for getting the Illinois

Department of Public Health to revoke funding promised to the Gay Community AIDS Project (GCAP) because he felt that GCAP was distributing "obscene" educational material. The press release also stated that "ACT-UP Champaign-Urbana has no relation to the Gay Community AIDS Project."

The words "I love gay sex" were used because they "assert the human right to be open and honest about sexual orientation without facing hate, violence, or discrimination," according to the press release.

The second action took place on

April 5 and was directed toward the University's affiliation with ROTC, a federally funded military training program. Wishing to protect their anonymity, six hooded demonstrators, each dressed in black, marched into the Armory during afternoon drilling exercises for Army ROTC. The demonstrators stood in a line and letters on their shirts spelled out "Gay Sex." As the imposing demonstrators moved around the Armory floor, a seventh hooded demonstrator handed flyers to passers by. The action protested the University's ties to ROTC because of the Defense Department's policy of

ACT-UP cont. on page 3

## IMPORTANT INFO ABOUT HIV TESTS

The Gay Community AIDS Project has learned that persons calling Champaign-Urbana Public Health District to request an appointment for a HIV antibody test recently have been referred to the walk-in Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Clinic on Tuesday or Friday afternoons for HIV screening. Be aware that there are now two HIV test programs at C-U Public Health District and that there are important differences between the programs.

The Anonymous Counseling and Testing Program is still available but an appointment is necessary. Call 352-7961 for an appointment. The counselors in the program are Joan and Cheryl. Appointments are available quickly (from within a couple hours to about 3 days). You will be asked to give a false first name and will later be assigned a code number by the counselor. Never will you be asked for your real name and/or address. The appointment takes about an hour - time for risk consultation, paper-

work, your questions, and the taking of blood for the test. (Very rarely a person might be asked to return a second time to have the blood drawn.) Test results are available in three weeks and must be picked up in person.

HIV screening in the STD Clinic is confidential. It is not anonymous. This means that you will have to give your name and address. While you will be given a code number, there is a paper trail from that code number back to your name and address in the CU Public Health District files. You might be advised to be screened for the HIV antibody at the STD Clinic, but you have the right to refuse any such test. You also have the right to be tested through the Anonymous Counseling and Testing Program rather than the STD Clinic.

If you have questions about HIV tests or about risk assessment or safer behaviors, call GCAP at 351-2437 or Joan or Cheryl at the CU Public Health District, 352-7961.

Gay Community AIDS Project

### GAY AND LESBIAN LIT CLASS SCHEDULED FOR FALL

A new class is planned for the fall semester at UIUC called "The Lesbian and Gay Tradition in Literature." The class is listed under English 106 and will be taught by Robert McRuer at 1:00 pm, MWF.

According to Bob, the course will explore both historical and contemporary writings. The first half of the course will examine gay and lesbian themes which exist in literature despite the virtual invisibility of an openly gay movement, and the second half will examine contemporary literature. From the celebration of a gay identity that characterizes the post-liberation literature of

the 1970s to the more disillusioned yet searching literature which reacts to the advent of AIDS and the political conservatism in the 1980s, the course will ask the question, "What difference does difference make?"

The course will also examine literature that has been closely tied to the gay and lesbian liberation movement and will examine the movement's similarities and differences from other liberation movements. The course will require one short paper and one long paper, a mid-term, and a final exam.

For more info call Bob at 333-2855.

RESOURCE LIST continued from page 4.

Heartland Metropolitan Community Church, McKinley Foundation Chapel, Champaign, 356-0823. Meets first & third Sunday of each month at 5 p.m.

#### Social

Alternate Current, P.O. Box 2641, Station A, Champaign. Mens social group, potlucks, trips.

Gay and Lesbian Coffeehouse, McKinley Foundation, 5th and Daniel, Champaign. Friday evenings from 8 to 10 in the Geneva Room.

Lavender Prairie Collective (LPC), P.O. Box 2096, Station A, Champaign. Womyn's support and literary group.

#### Support

Alcoholics Anonymous and ALANON/ACOA for lesbians and gays, McKinley Foundation, Champaign, 356-0823. Meets Fridays at 7 p.m.

Central Illinois Gender Association. Social/support group for transvestites and transexuals. Boxholder, P.O. Box 4017, Champaign, IL 61801. 217-356-6898

East-Central Illinois Gay/Lesbian Switchboard, 384-8040. Provides confidential peer counseling; medical, legal and religious referrals; and info about local organizations and social opportunities. Weeknights from 7 to 10.

Prairie Center. A comprehensive chemical dependency treatment facility. 122 W. Hill, Champaign. (217) 356-7562.

Gay and Lesbian Support Groups, McKinley Foundation. Call Switchboard, 384-8040, for info.

GCAP. (See listing under AIDS.)

PWA and Worried Well support groups. Call Charlie Schweitzer, 344-0297.

UIUC Counseling Center, 337 McKinley Health Center, 333-8360, or 206 Student Services Bldg., 333-3704.



## More Stupidity At The U of I

The Chancellor's Allerton Conference, held March 2-3, exposed homophobia at the University of Illinois.

In the hiring dramatization presented on Saturday morning, the second day of the conference, one of the five finalists for the fictitious faculty position in biochemistry was identified as an "outspoken homosexual." A member of the committee expressed reservations about the candidate's ability to fit into the department. The objections were planned as a part of the dramatization, and another committee member had the line, "His sexual orientation is a non-issue."

In an unrehearsed double entendre, a committee member asked about "the nature of the the candidate's relationship with his mentor." The audience clearly got the second meaning and broke into laughter.

Homosexual innuendo also brought laughter during the panel discussion that preceded the dramatization. Jim Kaput, a professor in the real Department of Biochemistry, remarked that a student had written on his evaluation that Kaput was a better teacher because he was better looking than the other man on the teaching team. When Kaput said he assumed the student was female, a woman in the audience called out, "Why?" and he responded, flustered, "Well, I'd prefer to think it was." The audience laughed.

In a small group discussion after the dramatization, Jeff McMahon, an assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy, pointed out that the laughter was probably offensive to gays in the audience. Dan Bloomfield, a professor in the College of Medicine, expressed surprise. The slight hadn't registered for him at the time, he said. His consciousness had been raised.

But Robert M. Berdahl, vice chancellor of academic affairs, pointed out that race and gender are not in the same legal category as "sexual preference." Jim McGathery, head of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature, said, "Some people may have a preference for undergraduates." His remark made "sexual preference" analogous to a preference for predatory sex with undergraduates.

Conversation over the closing luncheon turned to the Illinettes. Terry Shepard of the University News Bureau pointed out that students could form unofficial groups of any sort. "They could organize a Nazi group," he said, "but it wouldn't represent the university officially."

"Yes," said Jeremiah D. Sullivan, of the Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security Program in the Physics Department, "they have the Gay Illini." His analogy suggested he considered gays similar to Nazis.

Kevin Barnhurst  
Conference Attendee

### ACT-UP

continued from front page

discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation.

Stating that University affiliation with ROTC contradicts the University's "own goal of promoting acceptance and diversity," Those Pesky Queers called on the University to sever its ties with the ROTC program. Currently, there are moves at several other mid-west universities including the University of Iowa, Northwestern University, the University of Minnesota, and Northern Illinois University, to ban ROTC.

Those Pesky Queers is an independent organization that is not affiliated with the Lesbian and Gay Illini, the Gay Community AIDS Project, or any other local lesbian and gay organization. And just so there's no misunderstanding, LGI neither supports nor opposes ACT-UP generally or Those Pesky Queers specifically.

### UNITARIANS FORM NEW GROUP

A new group is forming for lesbians and gays. Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian and Gay Concerns (UULGC) is being organized by community member Tim Janes through the Channing-Murray Foundation.

According to Tim, the UULGC believes in providing an opportunity for lesbians, gays, and bisexuals to develop a spirituality that reflects the needs and history of our community; in affirming the personal dignity of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals; and in the right of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals to have equal access to social and political justice.

Anyone interested in becoming a part of the UULGC should call the Channing-Murray Foundation at (217) 344-1176 or Tim Janes at (217) 384-2009.

### LGI REPORTS

Well, we made it. After six newsletters we've reached the end of the '89-'90 academic year. This past year has been a great one for LGI. We've accomplished a lot and we've started to lay the ground work to accomplish even more next year. The University's non-discrimination policy, ROTC, the lack of programming targeting lesbians and gays, homophobia, and heterosexism will all continue to occupy LGI in the months and years ahead. Next year's work, however, will be the responsibility of the new officers who are scheduled to be elected on April 29. Their term of office will begin on May 16.

We hope to publish a summer edition of *PLU*, perhaps sometime in July or August. Working on *PLU* has been at the same time exciting and frustrating. Exciting because we're filling a void that desperately needs filling in this community. Frustrating because it's a real pain in the ass publishing a newsletter, even one as small as ours. But it might not remain so small in the future. A few visionaries are discussing the possibility of expanding *PLU*. Time will tell.

Thanks to everybody who helped to breath life back into *PLU* and to all those who support Lesbian and Gay Illini.

Ian Fielding

### A JOYFUL NOISE

The Champaign-Urbana Men's Chorus will be performing with the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus at McKinley Church on Saturday, May 5 at 8:00 p.m.

Admission to the concert is free but donations are always welcome. McKinley Church is located at Fifth and John streets in Champaign.

## RESOURCE LIST

### AIDS

Gay Community AIDS Project, Box 713, Champaign, 351-AIDS. Information, speakers and support services.

AIDS information in Illinois: 1-800-AID-AIDS.

Champaign-Urbana Public Health, 710 N. Neil, Champaign, 352-7961. Anonymous HIV-antibody testing with counseling, STD clinic.

University of Illinois, McKinley Health Center, 1109 S. Lincoln, Urbana, 333-3263. Gay supportive doctors, HIV anonymous testing; contact Mina Coy at 244-4740.

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Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau, a committee of Lesbian & Gay Illini.

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Club Cierra, Route 45 N., off I-74, Urbana, 367-1082. Lesbian private party, "The Chosen Few," on Sunday evenings only.

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Illini Union Book Center, 1401 W. Green, Urbana; 333-3903.

Jane Adams Book Shop, 208 S. Neil, Champaign; 356-2555.

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Grassroots Group for Second Class Citizens, womyn's group devoted to the use of direct action to work for social change. (Write in care of LPC for further info.)

### Publications

GCAPSule. Periodical of the Gay Community AIDS Project. (See listing under AIDS.)

Lavender Prairie News. Newsletter of the LPC. (See Social listing)

People Like Us. Newsletter of Lesbian and Gay Illini. (See listing under Academic.)

### Religion

Integrity/East Central Illinois, Canterbury House, 1011 S. Wright, Champaign, 344-1924. Episcopalians and Roman Catholics. Meets third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

## CALENDAR

- Sundays Lesbian and Gay Illini general meetings, 4 p.m. in or near the LGI office, 270 Illini Union.
- "Womyn Making Waves," Noon to 2 p.m., WEFT 90.1 FM.
- Women's Night at the Club Cierra, Route 45, North off I-74.
- Fridays Gay and Lesbian Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at McKinley Foundation.
- Apr 7-8, 13-14 & 20-22 Krannert Center, Illinois Repertory Theatre: *On the Verge or The Geography of Yearning*, a new play by Eric Overmeyer, story of three Victorian women exploring the 20th Century; tickets range from \$7-11, U of I, 500 S. Goodwin, Urbana.
- Mon, Apr 16 Integrity/East Central Illinois, General Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Canterbury House.
- Wed, Apr 18 LGI Bake Sale for Debbi Robin, southwest foyer of the Illini Union.
- Fri, Apr 20 "Take Back the Night," march to protest violence against women. All welcome at Rally 6 p.m. March 6.30p.m. (women and children only) and concert at 8:30 p.m. at Wesley Foundation (Green and Goodwin).
- Sat, Apr 21 Romanovsky & Phillips Concert at ISU, 8 p.m. in Hayden Auditorium, Normal. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.
- Sun, Apr 22 Prairie AIDS Foundation's "Walk for Life." Registration begins at 1 p.m. in Hessel Park. For info, call (217) 359-0222.
- Mon, Apr 23 ACT-UP demonstration in Chicago, protesting need for AIDS health care. for info call (312) 509-6802.
- Apr 27 thru May 3 The New Art Theatre; *Story of Women*, Claude Chabrol's movie of how one woman survives WWII by becoming an abortionist, in French, subtitled; see Resource listing.
- Sat, May 5 C-U Men's Chorus, Spring Concert, 8 p.m. at McKinley Church (5th and John). Donations at the door.
- May 31 thru June 3 National Women's Music festival, Bloomington, Indiana; (812) 331-7799 (Mondays & Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. EST), or write P.O. Box 1427, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

**HELP WANTED:** Homosexual & heterosexual male subjects needed for research: on lifestyle and career development.

Please call Barry at 337-1822 or pick up a questionnaire at 270 Illini Union. Responses will be anonymous.

## PLU CREDITS

Editor: Ian Fielding

Layout: Andy Webber, Ruben Zurita

Graphics: Daniel O'Brien

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RESOURCE LIST continued on page 2

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# People Like Us

A community newsletter of the Lesbian and Gay Illini

## Longtime Companion Showing at Art Theatre

"Longtime Companion," now playing at the New Art Theatre, has the distinction of being the first mainstream fiction film to deal with AIDS. And, even better, the movie portrays a group of gay men living in New York City and chronicles the affect AIDS has on them, instead of telling a "safer" tale (e.g. a hemophiliac's AIDS battle).

Beginning in 1981 and continuing through 1989, "Longtime Companion" tells its story in nine segments, one day out of every year. The first scene -- July 3, 1981 -- reflects the moment when the gay population was first alerted to the threat of AIDS, via a New York Times article reporting an outbreak of a "rare cancer" in the gay community. (Regarding this, screenwriter Craig Lucas commented, "Every gay man in New York can remember the day that article came out. It was a little like a flash of a nightmare. It's like, 'Where were you when Kennedy was shot?'" )

While this staccato storytelling may seem more suited to TV, it really works wonderfully in this film. With such drastic time changes throughout, the audience is allowed a whole picture of how this disease progressed. Advances in knowledge and attitude are observed in ways that would not work if this film to addressed the AIDS issue in a more compact time frame.

Of the eight main characters in this ensemble film, seven are gay men: Sean and David, a

middle-aged couple; Howard and Paul, a very handsome yuppie couple; Willy and "Fuzzy," who meet at the beginning of the film and establish a long-term relationship in the age of AIDS; John, Willy's best friend; and Lisa, Fuzzy's friend from childhood and the film's only significant female character. Before the film is over, many of these people are dead.

But don't let that keep you from the experiencing this movie. "Longtime Companion" is a sterling piece of work, and it manages not to drown in self-pity nor wallow in melodrama. You will likely cry when you see it, but Lucas knows it's important to laugh a bit, too.

The fact that this film was ever made is a real victory for the gay community, since Lucas and director Norman Rene met an incredible amount of door-slaming in their quest to find backers; no one in homophobic Hollywood wanted to take a risk.

Casting for "Longtime Companion" became another huge hurdle. All the big-name actors approached for the film had one excuse or another for not taking a role, although Rene believes much of the problem was due to the not-unfounded fear of being typecast or washed-up in the acting world after playing a homosexual. Ironically, one of the film's sub-plots involves Howard, an actor on a soap opera who worries about never working again when asked. The production time was often an overwhelming experience.

According to actor Bruce Davison, while filming a scene on New York's Fire Island, a gay vacation spot, "one of the crew was very distraught because he saw a house he had rented eight years earlier with five of his friends, and they were all gone. He was the only one left."

Some activists in the gay community have decried "Longtime Companion" for not being politically correct; since the film only depicts middle- and upper-class white males, some have said that, once again, people of color and women with AIDS are left out. Furthermore, the film

continued on next page

### Lesbian Concerns Forum Starting

Lesbian and Gay Illini is seeking input toward the planning of a local lesbian concerns forum. The purpose of the LGI has been to provide services, political and social, for both the lesbian and the gay people in our community. During the past year or two, however, the Lesbian and Gay Illini has become disproportionately Gay. Although I like gay men, being one myself, the absence of lesbians in the organization is hindering our ability to perform our stated mission. We cannot adequately address lesbian political issues because we lack lesbian leadership to explain exactly what those issues are. We, as a group of mostly gay men, cannot by ourselves provide a social setting in which lesbians can meet other lesbians, or merely even feel comfortable (how many gay men would feel comfortable being the only man in group which was otherwise exclusively lesbian?). We are in a Catch-22 of sorts: Lesbians are not attending our meetings because we are not fulfilling their needs, but without lesbian participation we do not know specifically what those needs are. The purpose of the conference I am proposing is to create a dialogue between the lesbians and the gay men of this community. Hopefully the conference will examine the ways in which the Lesbian and Gay Illini does not meet the needs of local lesbians so that we can work to correct past mistakes. This article is an open call for lesbian input on what issues the conference should cover and where and when the conference should be held. Your responses will exclusively determine the content of the conference, although it will be sponsored by LGI. We hope to hear from you soon.

Dan O'Brien  
Co-president, LGI

Companions, continued from front

really makes no attempt to criticize the government or the media in confronting the AIDS epidemic, which may add to some activists' consternation.

But perhaps they are asking too much. The film does a fine job of detailing how one group of friends was forced to confront an enemy no one knew anything about, and in the process, it never condescends to its audience nor makes apologies for the sexuality of its characters. Lucas, a volunteer at Manhattan's Gay Men's Health Crisis center, wrote a personal story based on what he knew, which is why it clicks so well. The film has never pretended to be the last word on the AIDS epidemic; indeed, it is only the first word.

"Longtime Companion" makes its points subtly; no fanfare or neon lights are present to signal the travails and discrimination suffered by AIDS patients, but the material is there. Little things -- like finding a funeral home willing to accept AIDS victims, or newspapers' initial refusal to mention gay lovers in obituaries (hence the euphemism "longtime companion") -- are incorporated into the film simply as facts of life; the filmmakers take no stance. This allows the viewer to identify the prejudices on their own, without feeling manipulated by a film with a political agenda.

Noted gay activist/columnist/film critic/person with AIDS Vito Russo had this to say about the movie: "Norman Rene, who directed 'Longtime Companion,' said a terrific thing in the L. A. Times. Somebody presented him with this argument (about the film needing to be more politically correct) and he said, 'Yeah, but how stupid would it sound if somebody with whom I've seen "Days of Wine and Roses" complained that there were no black alcoholics in it?' That's basically the way I feel about it.

"...I think there's going to be a whole segment of the gay male population who are going to say, 'AIDS is too depressing. I don't want to see this movie,' or 'I've had it in my life, I've had my friends die, I've lived through it and I don't need to see this again.' I understand their feelings, but you have to overcome your denial.

"In so many ways, 'Longtime Companion' is about the journey of these people to face reality and to come to family and to take care of each other, which they do. ... That's why I don't think the film is depressing. It has charm and wit and it really shows growth among these people, and you get proud of that, that they really work so hard. And I thought that was one of the most powerful aspects of 'Longtime Companion.' ... This film is about gay people and how they form a family, and I thought that was great."

Bill Behrens

### PLU CREDITS

This abbreviated issue of *PLU* has been brought to you by Andy Webber, Ruben Zurita, Bill Behrens and Dan O'Brien.

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- Fridays Gay and Lesbian Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the McKinley Foundation.
- Jul 28 thru Aug 11 Gay Games III, "Celebration '90," at Vancouver, BC
- Sat, Aug 4 AIDS Benefit Fashion Show, 8-10 p.m. at Chester Street, 63 Chester, Champaign
- Aug 20, 21 On-Campus Registration. Be sure to sign up for the Gay and Lesbian Literature course at the English table.
- Wed, Aug 22 Quad Day, 10-4 p.m. on the U of I Quad. Stop by the LGI booth for some good gossip.
- GCAP's Annual Rummage Sale, starting at 9 a.m. at the McKinley Foundation, 5th and Daniel, Champaign.
- Wed, Aug 29 Orientation to Local Lesbian and Gay Resources, 7 p.m. in the basement of the University YMCA. A social will follow.
- Thu, Oct 11 National Coming Out Day

### NEWS

#### **LGI Starts Fall with Orientation**

LGI will hold its annual "orientation" session on Wednesday, August 29, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the K rooms of the University YMCA. Representatives from LGI and several other lesbian and gay organizations in the area will describe their group's function and resources. Groups that have participated in the past include Speakers' Bureau, Gay/Lesbian Switchboard, Grassroots Group for Second Class Citizens, McKinley Health Center, Gay Community AIDS Project, C-U Men's Chorus, Integrity and Alcoholics Anonymous, to name a few. A reception will follow the meeting.

#### **Heartland MCC Fades Out**

Due to a lack of support, Heartland Metropolitan Community Church will no longer be holding services. Bob Hull, pastor of the former MCC chapter, recommends McKinley Presbyterian and St. John's Episcopal churches as local parishes sensitive to the needs of gay and lesbian Christians. MCC is still active in downstate Illinois though, with chapters in both Peoria and Springfield. For further information you may call Bob at 356-0832.

#### **AIDS Benefit at C-Street**

A fashion show will be held at Chester Street on the evening of Saturday, August 4, from eight to ten. Male and female models will display the latest in clothing fashions, as provided by local merchants. All proceeds from the benefit will go towards AIDS research. Don't miss your chance to see real vogue at Chester Street.

# People Like Us



A community newsletter of the Lesbian and Gay Illini



## There's no place like home for the holidays . . . or is there?

Every year around this time the media lets us know what a truly awful time of year this is for many people. We've heard it all before: the holidays are often a time of depression, tension, anger, and confusion. Of course, it doesn't have to be this way and, luckily for Salvation Army sidewalk santas and the Christmas Seal folks, for many people this is the most wonderful time of the year. For many of my gay and lesbian friends, the holidays are neither a Norman Rockwell painting nor a reason to take the big dive off the Altgeld Hall bell tower. Instead, it's a time of ambivalent feelings toward family; a time to be with family because of a sense of obligation and not because of the swell times to be had by all. 'Tis the season to feel guilty.

None of this, of course, is specific only to lesbians and gays. For straights, too, these same feelings about family obligations during the holidays are true. But for us, it's different. Who we are as often as not only heightens the holiday tensions. If we're out to our families then those few days spent with them this time of year becomes a time to

face the truth, something we needn't bother with the other eleven and a half months of the year. If we're not out to our families then, as usual, the truth is ignored or concealed. Either way this is not *It's a Wonderful Life*.

You might be one of the extremely fortunate few. Maybe your family is entirely accepting of you and is perfectly comfortable with having you and your lover share a bed in mommy and daddy's house. For most of us, though, this is not reality. As a way of coping with reality we often avoid our families during the holidays and this in turn only fuels more guilt and depression. What a choice: go home and experience incredible tension or stay where you are and feel guilty.

There is another option, however. My unsolicited advice: stay where you are and don't feel guilty. It sounds so simple and yet, it is. But this advice works only insofar as you have a more flexible definition of family. Hans Gernot, a clinical therapist who specializes in holiday trauma says,

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### Spring Semester Support Groups

Lesbian, gay, and bisexual support groups will be forming in late January. The groups typically meet once per week for the duration of the semester. The tone of each group depends on the style of the group's co-facilitators (group leaders who provide some structure to the sessions) as well as the needs of the members. Some groups tend towards a loose structure with discussion on general topics, while other groups are more personal in nature. Some of the topics that usually come up during the weekly sessions include gay and bisexual sexuality, coming out, homophobia, relationships, and AIDS.

Any lesbian, gay or bisexual person is welcome. Groups are often closed after the first week or two, so it's important to contact the co-facilitators by mid-January. For more information contact the Lesbian/Gay Switchboard at 384-8040 on weekdays from 7:00pm to 10:00pm or the Lesbian and Gay Illini at 333-1187.

Joe Beason

## forum

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### Homophobia in the Progressive Community

The progressive community has inarguably been one of the most accepting groups towards lesbians and gays. This step toward openness has led to unique opportunities for dialogue between the two groups. This dialogue though has evolved along a strangely conservative line and it's terminology is not the terminology of either progressives or homosexuals.

The words that progressives and unfortunately many lesbians and gays use to describe the relationship between the two communities are words not of empowerment and affirmation but those of acceptability and validation. The issues discussed are not those shared by both groups, such as civil rights recognition or the fight against oppression.

Instead, the conservative born conceptualization of homosexuality as something that needs to be accepted leads to the implication that homosexuality must be validated by the prevailing heterosexual doctrine. In fact, homosexuality does not need the validation of anyone, hetero-or-homosexual. Homosexuality exists above and beyond any of our acceptance of it. As gays and lesbians we must come to realize that denying homosexuality does not make it go away. As progressives, we must understand that denying the true issues of homosexuality, that of empowerment and civil rights, does not make them go away either. If progressives are going to claim to be true friends of the lesbian and gay community they are going to have to be willing to look at their own true feelings about homosexuality and see how they can get in the way of their ideals. Until this happens there will be a subtle hint of hypocrisy in our relationships.

If gays and lesbians are going to expect the progressive community to give up their homophobia we are going to have to loosen our hold on our own position of homophobia and make the coming out process one of affirmation instead of one of apology. We must stand firm in our own positive definitions of who we are and hold fast to our pride.

In part the inspiration for this article comes from research being done for a *Prairie Free Press* article. Anyone interested in being part of a series of confidential interviews for this article, please contact Tim Janes at 344-4030 or leave a message at the LGI office, 270 Illini Union.

T. V. Janes

## feature

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### Gay in the Library: Lesbian and Gay Travels

Travel guides exist for all types of special groups or activities—wherever an entrepreneur thinks there is a market or profit. Because at least some gay males and lesbians are perceived as having greater than average disposable income, travel guides for people like us exist in fair numbers. If many appear to aim toward gay males and bar listings, this will be left for the reader to ponder.

All travel guides age quickly in their usefulness. The following guides are available in the University of Illinois Library with the latest year of coverage indicated.

*Gayellow pages.* (1989) A comprehensive, long established guide covering not only bars and accommodations but also businesses, churches, health care, lawyers, organizations and publications. Covers USA and Canada. (call number: 306.76025 G255)

*Spartacus guide for gay men.* (1989) Large guide with extensive foreign coverage. (call number: 306.76025 Sp27)

*Bob Damron's address book.* (1990) A long established guide for the USA, Canada and Mexico. (call number: 306.766 B63)

*Places of interest: the atlas of gay travel.* (1990) An international guide with maps and includes outdoor events, sports events, tour operators and calendar events. (call number: 306.766 P69)

*Inn places: USA and worldwide gay accommodations.* (1989) Lists bars and restaurants with detailed accommodations information. (call number: 647.94025 In6)

*London scene: the gay man's guide.* (1987) Some history as well as descriptions (not just listings) of tourist establishments. (call number: 914.2104858 L846)

*Odysseus: an accommodations & travel guide for the gay community (USA/International)* (1989) Lists general state and city tourist information with gay bars and restaurants but emphasizes bed and breakfast establishments to gay resorts. (call number: 917.304 Od9)

Most large American cities have one or more gay newspapers which can be identified in *Gayellow Pages* or other sources. Local travel information may be included. Obtaining a recent sample issue could enhance travel planning.

Bon voyage.

John Littlewood

## A Piece of My Brain

by Steen Lawson

"Dial now guys are waiting," how can you resist such a plea? Especially when those words are topped by a picture of a handsome stud who practically drips sexiness. This kind of phone sex advertisement can be found in any of the big city lesbian/gay newspapers and magazines. In fact, the phone sex ads are everywhere in those publications and many of them have several pages full of various services. This heavy advertising indicates to me a big business that has many users. It also has become part of our culture during the 80's, just as much as Jeff Stryker videos have. Recently it seems that our culture expanded a little beyond strictly gay audiences, no I'm not talking about Jeff Stryker making "straight" videos. This expansion occurred when the *Daily Illini* ran a display advertisement for a gay phone sex party line.

The funny thing about the ad was that the *DI* did not even know it was for gay men. They went so far as to have some women call the line to check it out but said that there was just "some bored guy on the other end," according to *DI* sales manager Sean Bodnar. Did it ever occur to them that for a straight party line to work you need to appeal to both sexes? How would the straight men know to call that line so they could be linked up with women? I guess the only way it could have

worked would be to have another ad right next to it with a gorgeous woman and the caption, "Dial now, babes are waiting" (notice the derogatory language in the ad for the straight men). Anyway, we knew better and recognized the ad for what it was right off the bat.

It is kind of exciting to see advertisements for gays leaping out of the personals section and onto regular pages. Who knows? Maybe we will be seeing more of this in the future. How about a full page color ad in *Newsweek* for vodka. The picture would be of sultry well-dressed man with lots of attitude sitting at a bar talking to the male bartender. The caption would read, "When I say vodka, Ruby, I mean Denaka!!" Or how about an underwear ad in *Sports Illustrated*? Imagine a picture of a locker room full of men in their skivies, while a guy in the center sits on a bench admiring a particularly nice pair on a man across from him. Floating above his head is one of those thought clouds that says, "Nice Calvins." And what chewing gum or breath mint ad couldn't do with a few same-sex couples mashing in front of television viewers nationwide?

Maybe one day we will be able to expect advertisements that are aimed directly at us in the media. After all we do read more than just lesbian/gay journalism. We are also guilty of watching television, especially "Designing Women" and "The Golden Girls." In the mean time it's encouraging that our culture has in a small way left the confines of strictly gay media. After all, the *Daily Illini* did carry an ad for gay phone sex.

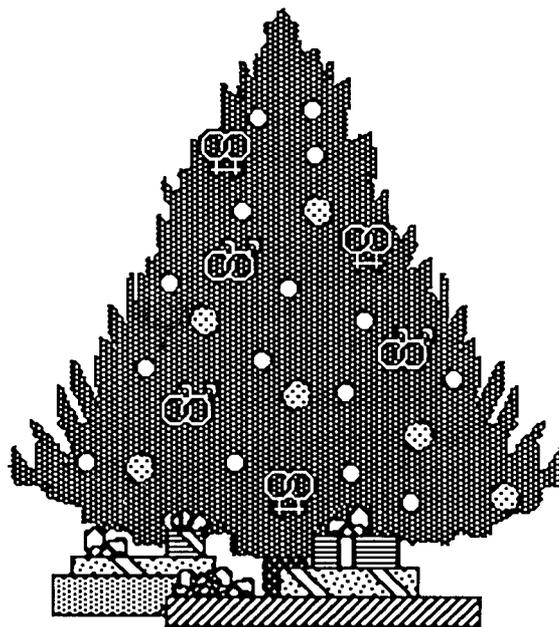
Home continued from page 1

"Inherent for the gay person during this time is an intensification of the desire to be accepted, to be part of the family. When most of my patients who suffered from depression over not going home for the holidays recognized a loving, supportive group of friends around their everyday life and then based their holiday plans on these people, not only did they have a better time, a truer time, but their blood relatives began taking them less for granted."

If a visit with the family over the holidays is inevitable and if this prospect fills you with some anxiety, don't despair. Perhaps you can lower your expectations a bit—Norman Rockwell's paintings and Frank Capra's films are not what the holidays are all about. The holidays are only what you make of them.

Personally, I won't be home for Christmas and that's fine. I'll be spending the holidays with friends. I love my family but I will not miss them. And I will not feel guilty about it either.

Ian Fielding



## LGI reports

### LGI Springs Into 1990

The spring semester is just around the corner and plans are in the works for a number of LGI activities. Things get started in mid-January with our first business meeting of the spring on January 7th. On January 14th, LGI will have a spring orientation meeting for new members.

In February, LGI will celebrate its fifteenth anniversary (and they said it wouldn't last!). We're currently bouncing around ideas on ways to mark this important event (a party, at least, is likely). The next *PLU* will have the details.

March also promises to be an important time for LGI. The first two weeks will mark Lesbian and Gay Awareness Days. This is a change from our traditional Awareness Week in the spring semester. The idea is to spread out the awareness activities over a longer period of time to make the event more manageable as well as to increase participation in the various scheduled activities. Tentative activities include the second annual Alternative Prom as well as a panel discussion on gay life after the university (to be co-sponsored by the Counseling Center and the UIUC Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association). A lot more is planned so stay tuned!

April's main event is a walk-out to an as-of-yet-undetermined university to visit with another lesbian and gay organization. Last year LGI visited the Ten Percent Society at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. These visits are important because it gives us a chance to exchange ideas and information with other organizations. It's also an excuse to get out of town and meet new people. We're not saying which is the more important reason.

Of course, the semester ends in May and for LGI that means election time. The summer issue of *PLU* will let you know who the new officers will be.

That's what's going on in the spring. We'll see you then. Happy holidays from LGI.



## calendar of events

Sundays Lesbian and Gay Illini general meetings, 4 p.m. in or around the LGI office, 270 Illini Union  
**NOTE:** LGI will not meet formally through December. Our first meeting of 1990 will be January 7th.

"Womyn Making Waves,"  
Noon to 2p.m. on WEFT 90.1 FM

Women's Night at the Club Cierra,  
Route 45 North, off I-74.

Fridays Gay and Lesbian Coffeehouse,  
8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Geneva Room  
of the McKinley Foundation, at the  
corner of Fifth and Daniel



## PLU credits

Editor ..... Ian Fielding  
Layout & Graphics ..... Andy Webber,  
Ruben Zurita  
Contributors ..... Joe Beason, T. V. Janes,  
John Littlewood, Steen  
Lawson, Ian Fielding

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