COALITION SPEAKS OUT AT HEARING

Rhonda White and Bill Turner, Co-chairs of the Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice, addressed the Judiciary Committee of the Tennessee House of Representatives on Wednesday, March 13th. They spoke in opposition to House Bill 2907, the same-sex marriage bill. The bill would prohibit the state from recognizing same-sex marriages.

White and Turner pointed out that the bill is discriminatory in that it prevents same-sex couples from enjoying the rights that opposite-sex couples take for granted. They urged the committee to vote against the bill out of fairness and common decency.

House sponsor Wayne Ritchie (D-Knox) suggested that the Coalition took a contradictory position by opposing the restriction on same-sex marriages while supporting restrictions on polygamous and incestuous marriages. Representative Peach (R-Camden), House sponsor of the Ten Commandments resolution, commended Rep. Ritchie for sponsoring the bill, saying that it reflected God’s intentions. He asked White and Turner if they knew of any same-sex couples who had ever contributed anything worthwhile to society. Turner replied that he did, pointing out that many same-sex couples contribute enormously to their communities.

The committee approved the bill on a voice vote with no votes against. The bill will go before the full House sometime this week. The Senate passed a different version of the bill three weeks ago.

The Coalition meets the first and third Thursday of each month, call 298-LGCJ for details.

ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU SPEAKS FROM THE EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

On “Sunday Program” on BBC Radio 4, the Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Reverend Desmond Tutu, spoke in favor of ordaining homosexual to the priesthood.

The Archbishop was speaking in a personal capacity from Cape Town. He was interviewed by the “Sunday Program” after he had signed a statement of support for the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. The statement forms part of an advertisement for the movement’s 20th birthday.

When questioned on the church’s attitude to homosexuals, the Archbishop replied, “The Church has not got there yet, but if we were to say that in relationships it is desirable that there is fidelity between a couple, why should we not extend the same conditions to same sex relationship?”

The Archbishop said, “This is my personal position. I am passionate in my opposition to any injustice and I believe I know where our Lord would stand.” he added.

When questioned whether he was hopeful that the Anglican Communion might move towards the ordination of practicing gay people in Church he said, “As a matter of justice, of compassion, of consistency, yes.”

When questioned about reservations on this question by sections of the African church the Archbishop replied, “They said the same thing about the ordination of women to the priesthood. People claimed that it was foisting something that was totally un-African and that turned out to be quite untrue.”

The Archbishop added, “I think there is something wrong when we persecute people and make them hate who God has made them to be, and if there is a way in which I can assist in the rehabilitation of people’s self-worth, I certainly will do all I can.”

The Archbishop’s comments have caused widespread media interest and comment in Britain.
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DID YOU KNOW...
BY: DAVE HENRICS

I've got it for you! Some good, informative resources that is. I have acquired much of what I know about HIV/AIDS from reading. Like many of us, the "subject" is not a required course so we have to search out our own information. When first diagnosed HIV+ in 1988, I said, "Oh, now what do I do-if anything." No idea of what was to follow—the denial stage, confusion, attempt to accept it, and the timing of when, how and to whom to tell.

Some very good information can be found in the following list of organizations, newsletters and magazines:

*Arts And Understanding (AU): Literature and art about HIV/AIDS. 1-800-841-8707

**BCPWA News:** From British Columbia, this newsletter has information about HIV/AIDS and others affected by it. Although regional, it has important information (free, donations accepted): BCPWA NEWS 1107 Seymour Street Vancouver, BC V5G-558 Canada

*CLINTEC NUTRITION CO:* Mailer’s of nutritional supplements, with very good articles on nutrition. CLINTEC NUTRITION CO. PO Box 760 Deerfield, IL 60015-0760 1-800-422-ASK2 (2752)

**EPI-NEWS:** Tennessee Dept. of Health, Communicable and environmental disease service. Local information and stats about HIV/AIDS. EPI-NEWS 312 8th Avenue N. Nashville, TN 37247

**HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN QUARTERLY:** Political news for gay and lesbian America. 1-800-572-4723

**INFOCUS NEWS:** Ross labs’ newsletter containing very helpful HIV news and nutrition information. INFOCUS NEWS Ross Production Division, 106 780/54 625 Cleveland Ave Columbus, OH 43216

**POSITIVE THREADS:** Very informative and down to earth magazine. Covers all aspects of the virus and living with it. Possibly free to PWA’s. 1-800-883-2163

**POSITIVE THREADS:** A newsletter for people living with HIV/AIDS. A very informative newsletter dealing with national topics even though it is from Austin, TX. I receive copies monthly which can be passed along. Call me at 383-9285 or write:

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Austin, TX 78762
Attention: Jim Thurman

*PROVINCE TOWNS DOMINATE:* Empowerment for people living with AIDS. More great information: PP/PWAC PO Box 1465 Providence, MA 02657

If any reader has his/her favorite or newsworthy publication they would like to share, contact Dave at 383-9285. Any information or medical procedures contained in the preceding publications should be discussed with your health care provider or personal physician.

LESBIA & GAY HISTORY FINDING LIBRARY ALLIES

Public libraries and museums in states across the United States have begun to allocate space for exhibits of gay and lesbian culture. The New York Public Library added the exhibit “Becoming Visible: The Legacy of Stonewall” in 1994 and has also focused on AIDS-related materials. The library has received the archives of the AIDS protest and advocacy group ACT UP/New York. The San Francisco Public Library, the Boston Public Library, and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum also have exhibits or plans for exhibits on gay and lesbian history and culture.

IN WRITING

A state district judge in Tyler, Louisiana has sentenced Thomas Paul McDevitt, 33, of Metairie, La., to five years’ probation. The informed consent is a condition of the probation. Thomas Paul McDevitt has disclosed the fact that he had been diagnosed as positive for the HIV virus in his body and may be symptomatic for the disease of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, the informed consent form states.

McDevitt was arrested for stealing a car.
Lesbian Family Week. The event will classrooms. This film, Chasnoff says, abilities of changing what the next genera­

bilities, and going "Don't Look the Other Way," continues Fisher. part of an educational media se r iesspots to vacation," says Tim Fisher, Progressive" (March 1996). The magazine pros­pective parents _ has declared the educate parents and teachers as they inte­

fits this description to a tee." school students .. It's a huge undertaking, of two kids, ages 3 and 5. "Provincetown venting homophobia among elementary­

Academy Award-winner Debra Chasnoff, most modestly, about her latest project: "Don't Look the Other Way.

The new documentary tackles the subject of homophobia in elementary school, and is intended to encourage and educate parents and teachers as they inte­

This film, Chasnoff says, "demystifies what it means to do anti-bias education that is inclusive of lesbian and gay people.

Chasnoff's effort has already earned praise in a review for "The Progressive" (March 1996). The magazine noted: "Her new project is aimed at pre­

venting homophobia among elementary-school students. It's a huge undertaking, but the mixture of talent and compassion Chasnoff brings to her work makes her the right person for the job."

"Don't Look the Other Way" is part of an educational media series "Respect for All." To date, the series includes the new documentary, a teacher's resource guide, and three additional 15­

minute videos. These video shorts — "My Family Is Special," "Don't Call Me That," and "Shattering Stereotypes" — are specifically targeted to school-age children, for use in the elementary classroom.
erosion
love
sometimes leaves
bruises on the soul
scars like tattoos without
color
indent the flesh
deepening...
deepening...
until the heart
becomes a sieve
unable to hold
that which has no
texture
lovers
one by one
flow like water
leaving behind
only dampness
and a persistent
eating away
soon
all that remains
of the soul
are the bruises

thunderstorm
lightening
like an erratic strobe
spotlights skin
slick with sweat and rain
two
mouths open to the angry
night
palms against brick
back to front
rushing furiously
toward a shared end
muscles strain
and then

heads thrown back
shouting above
the thunder that
announces
danger
too close to home
a new river flows
and, for now,
two are drowning
SUNDAY
Music City Rollers Winter Bowling League: 12:30 p.m. 227-3543 for details
Volunteer Volleyball: 1:30 p.m. 297-0008
Stonewall Mission Church: 6:30 p.m. at 703 Berry Rd 297-0008
Dayspring Christian Fellowship: 7:00 p.m. 120 B.S. 11th St. 227-1448
Metropolitan Community Church: 7:00 p.m. 1808 Woodmont Blvd. 262-0922
Rejoice and Be Glad: 1st & 3rd Sundays 646-5163

MONDAY
NOW: National Organization for Women. 4th Monday 7:00 p.m. 292-6371
1016 18th Ave South
Lambda Group (AA): 8:00 p.m. 1808 Woodmont Blvd

TUESDAY
Reconciliation: at 6:00 p.m. 292-6371
MTSU Lambda Association: 6:30 p.m. Fall & Winter 780-2293
Southern Country Dance: At The Chute 7:00 p.m. 2535 Franklin Rd.
P-FLAG: Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gays 1st Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
meetings held at 1808 Woodmont Blvd
Married and Gay Network: 1st & 3rd Tuesday 6:30 p.m. At the Center for Lesbian & Gay Services located at 703 Berry Rd 297-0008
NWA: Nashville Women's Alliance 3rd & 4th Tuesday 7:00 p.m. At the Center 703 Berry Road 297-0008
Integrity: 4th Tuesday 297-0008 for details

WEDNESDAY
Co-Dependents: Anonymous 7:00 p.m. 703 Berry Rd 297-0008
Free to Be (AA): 6:30 p.m. 419 Woodland St.
One in Teen: 6:30 p.m. 703 Berry Rd 297-0008
Women's Discussion Group: 7:00 pm at the Center 703 Berry Road. Call 297-0008

THURSDAY
Music City Rollers II: Bowling League 6:30 p.m. Donelson Plaza Lanes 227-3543
The Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice: The Board meets 7p.m. the 1st Thurs. &
the general membership meets 7p.m. the 3rd Thurs. At St. Ann's Episcopal Church Fifth &
Woodland. Info 298-4668

INTERACT: Gay men's discussion group 7:00-8:30 P.M. on 2nd & 4th Thursday
703 Berry Road 297-0008

FRI DAY
1-800-845-4266
Overeater's Anonymous: 5:00 p.m. 703 Berry Rd 297-0008
Program Study Group (AA): 7:00 p.m. 2007 Acklen Ave.

SATURDAY
Nashville '96 Lesbian & Gay Pride Committee: 2nd & 4th Saturday 10:45 a.m.
The Center 703 Berry Road. For details call 832-5653.
Tennessee Vals: Transgendered Group 2nd Sat. 664-6883

OTHER
Clarksville CARES: 1-615-503-4063
Columbia CARES: 1-615-351-0114
Music City Panel Makers: 876-0770
The Center: 297-0008
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The Birdcage, Hollywood’s long-delayed remake of the 1978 French farce, “La Cage aux Folles.” On second thought, they might not be amused, for the butt of the joke is a reactionary senator (Gene Hackman) who proudly waves the flag of homophobia. Most everyone else will be tickled pink by this sleek Mike Nichols remake. With Robin Williams as the nightclub owner Armand (he’s now Jewish) and Nathan Lane as the tempestuous drag queen Albert, “The Birdcage” should confirm the property’s footproof commercial appeal, which has little to do with sex and everything to do with the seemingly irresistible spectacle of men in dresses. From the brilliant “Some Like It Hot” to the laborious “To Wong Foo Thanks for Everything Julie Newmar,” Harbour has embraced cross-dressing as the safest way to pitch gaiety to a mass audience. Drag queens are the cinema’s favorite naughty pets, harmless if not quite housebroken.

What’s striking about “The Birdcage” is how little it’s changed in 18 years. Sure, the setting has been revamped to Miami’s South Beach. And writer Elaine May has literally translated in topical references from the gay community to Bob Dole. Otherwise, Nichols carefully follows the classical-farce footprints of the original, in which the middle-aged gay couple are forced to conjure up a straight facade to facilitate the marriage of Armand’s son to the daughter of the gayhating, anti-Semitic Senator.

It worked before, and it works again, though for the first hour I thought Nichols had blown it. Why wasn’t he having more fun with the material? Nichols and May have updated their surroundings, but they haven’t rethought their heroes. Old swish stereotypes to begin with, they make even less sociological sense in South Beach two decades later. Babyboomers Armand and Albert behave in the queency, asexual style of an older generation of gay men. Of course we know the real reason for this: two men kissing is a box-office no-no.

If Nichols and May are out of touch with gay life, they do know a thing or two about comedy. The farcical wheels Nichols has been slowly oiling shift into high gear when the senator and his gentelie wife (Dianne Wiest) come to dinner to meet the prospective in-laws. Suddenly, “The Birdcage” takes supremely airy flight. The hysterical Line Dons his dowdy, Republican grande dame drag to enchant the senator; Williams squeezes himself into a manly black suit and the flouncing maidservant (a very funny Hank Azaria) almost blows the game when he serves up soup bowls decorated with naked Greek boys doing ancient Greek things to one another.

The movie’s method, and its message, are as old as comedy itself, as the lords of miscue rout the spoilsports who would try to legislate love.

RUDY GALINDO

...His pansy coach, Jim Haluck, had...died of AIDS, and his next mentor, Rick Inlesi, also became stricken with the disease. (He died last year.) [Father] Jess Galindo eventually succumbed to a heart attack in 1993. Finally, Rudy’s brother George, 10 years his senior, contracted AIDS. The period before George’s death, also in 1993, was a parlous time for Galindo. “For eight months, I drove George to the hospital every day,” he says. “I carried him to the bath and changed his diapers. I got numb - to all the suffering around me, numb even to death itself. Nothing got through to me except skating in the morning. It was my only release.”

Galindo is gay, one of the first skaters to acknowledge his orientation. That doesn’t help with the skating Establishment, which prefers homosexual male skaters to hide their preference.

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THEY'RE NOT GOING AWAY
BY BILL TURNER

I know I'm beginning to sound like a broken record, but our opponents aren't going away. They made the front page of the Tennessee recently. I hope you saw it: "Might of Religious Right no lost on nervous lawmakers." The story was about the fact that the far right, under the banner of the Christian Coalition, poses to state legislators who speak up for the mainstream. As the story makes clear, the far right has done a good job of pushing its extremist agenda in the state legislature this year. They tend to pursue bills that violate basic principles of American government, such as the Ten Commandments resolution, and bills offering simplistic remedies to non-problems while distorting energy and attention from real problems. The bill prohibiting anyone from coercing a woman to have an abortion is an example. Right-wing extremists refuse to accept the possibility that women have compelling reasons to choose abortion, and that the way to prevent abortions is to help women avoid the circumstances in which they must face such choices.

But for present purposes, the most important non-issue bill is the same-sex marriage bill. House sponsor Wayne Ritchie originally included in his version of the bill the assertion that prohibiting same-sex marriages will prevent the state from facing difficult public policy issues. Hello? When does treating everyone equally create public policy issues? This shows how twisted right-wing thinking can be. Rather than simply acknowledge the undeniable point that lesbians and gay men form committed relationships equal to those of non-gay people, Senator Jim Holcomb has to stand logic on its head and claim that making marriage equally available to all who want it will somehow diminish its value. Just like letting black people drink from your water fountain will taint the water, I suppose.

Speaking of which, perhaps the most terrifying aspect of the same-sex marriage bill was also reported in the Tennessee: State Senator Thelma Harper voted "pass," neither for nor against, the same-sex marriage bill in committee. For this display of moral courage, she received a letter chastising her from her pastor, Thomas Snow of Schrader Lane Church of Christ. Probably not since the Seventeenth Century have ministers tried so brazenly to dictate public policy in the United States. But, as I've said before, they can only get away with this if we let them. When they disparage our relationships, we must be prepared to defend ourselves. When Holcomb claims to have "cured" lesbians and gay men, we need to speak up and point out that being lesbian or gay is nothing to cure, and that supposed "cures" often involve electrodes attached to the "patient's" genitals and other inhumane forms of aversion therapy.

When Bobbie Patray says that right wing extremist influence results from "the failure of what we have been doing in terms of our society," we should point out that she refers to advances in equal treatment not only for lesbians and gay men, but also for women generally, for black people, and for religious minorities.

They don't like to admit it, but that's what they object to. Paul Weyrich, the godfather of right wing extremists, has said that he only wants to make the United States more like it was in the 1950's, and that can't be so bad, can it?

Well, no, if you don't mind legal racial segregation and rampant sexism and policies of routinely raiding gay bars just to harass the patrons.

They can only take us back to that if we let them. Speak up for yourself now, before it's too late.

THE DANCE OF LAUGHTER AND FORGETTING
BY KEVIN ISOM

Humor is as humor does. (That line courtesy of Forrest Gump.) But humor can only go so far. Sometimes I need to laugh just to keep myself from crying. And sometimes I need to cry, just to keep myself from laughing.

When I was nineteen, I was living near the French Riviera, the Cote d'Azur. In a tiny Provence Town in a city art gallery, I met a painter of minor talent. One of my Czech friends, who introduced us, waangled an invitation for us down to his beach house at Cassis, a pebbly-beached town on the western end of the Riviera. This artist was particularly kind to young people, having lost his own wife and child in a car accident years earlier, while in the years before that, he had lost his country, when the Soviets took over Czechoslovakia.

But I turned down the invitation, thinking him only an artist of minor talent. I was nineteen, and a bit presumptuous. It was only when I returned to the States that a professor gave me some books to read, books which he said might be a good model for my own writing style. I liked his titles: *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting*, *The Incredible Lightness of Being, Laughable Loves*. The books were written by the foremost expatriate Czech writer, a man expected by many to one day win a Nobel Prize in literature. He lived on the Riviera in a town called Cassis, where he had retired after the deaths of his wife and child in a tragic car accident. I read his name, Milan Kundera, as images of minor art and a kindly old man flashed through my mind. Then I thought about that weekend in Cassis and the opportunity missed, and I had to laugh just to keep from crying.

Eleven years later, my life is much changed. I've entered a career path, then altered it to include what I really wanted to do all along. I've been in relationships, largely unsuccessful, though one tends to expect that in one's twenties anyway.

I'm visiting Boston, about to go to Paris. And as I'm in Boston, dancing shirtless in a hopping club, suddenly I remember Milan Kundera, and I realize I'm probably the only person on the dance floor pondering literary memories. But the last eleven years have left me with a certain feeling that appears from time to time, and I doubt I'm the only one who feels it. It's an awareness of a sense of ajarness, of ultimate aloneness, the same sense that makes us seek out significant others. Some people call them split-aparts, the other half of your soul that you seek all your life.

And on the dance floor, though, with the bright lights, the loud music, the vibrating bass, the shirtless men all around, the bodies sweating and writhing and moving, like one mass of humanity momentarily brought together—at that moment, the aloneness fades, the ajarness subsides, the sometimes absurdity of life recedes. For a moment, I forget my laughable loves, and I escape to the incredible lightness of being, as I dance the dance of laughter and forgetting. For a moment, on the dance floor, we are not alone.

I wonder if anyone else is thinking these thoughts, then I almost cry just to keep from laughing. What irony that Milan Kundera's titles have presaged a part of my life. I just wonder what that beach house at Cassis must have been like.

Kevin Isom is an attorney and writer. His columns appear in newspapers and magazines throughout the U.S. and Canada.
HOW TO VOTE FOR YOURSELF IN MAINE

ROBERT RULES BY SHELLY ROBERTS

She’s a plain spoken woman, the way you’d expect from a State-o’-Maine.

Her clothes, haircut, shoes reflect more her good Maine values then the cosmetic value too many female politicians usually opt for. You know, that slick, glossy look that seems borrowed more from the Politicians’ Wives Handbook than the manual on bringing ethics and fair play back to government. That wouldn’t be her style. And it wouldn’t fly in her district.

She’s a Democrat, and a State Senator from Monmouth, Maine, looking to unseat the incumbent. And the thing is, she’s very likely to win. ‘Very’, very likely.

When she talks about welfare reform she doesn’t come from the mean-spirit that’s infecting our current congress. She sees no reason to kick women and children first off welfare, without recourse or resource, as a way to check our pocketbooks. Instead, she preaches what she’s practiced.

She created, and for the last ten years has been running, Women Unlimited, which is, she says, “.... a program that accomplishes what politicians in Washington can only hope for; it’s a model of welfare reform that really works.”

Not only does her program work, so do her enrollees. She takes women on welfare and retrain them for trade and technical jobs. “Women should be trained to do “one” job that will bring in enough money to support an entire family,” she says. They shouldn’t have to practice saying “You want that with fries?”. It’s a dead-end for women, and she knows that, at the low end, women taking two or three jobs don’t gо home with the time or dignity or energy it takes to give a family the attention it needs. So her company, and her programs, turn women into truck drivers, and pile drivers, welders, carpenters, draftspersons, and machinists.

Congress should be this successful. “90% of our graduates found jobs at an average wage of $8.03, which is *fantastic* for anybody coming off welfare.”

It’s also fantastic for anybody in politics to come to it with such a practical, get-it-to-smartly approach to managing government excess. When she votes for her vested self-interests, she knows that means taking a really long while the Republican reptilian leader, the head Newt, panders to the public to dismiss Friedan’s “pathetic demands that we all now go backward.”

She is a Democrat, and a State Senator from Monmouth, Maine, looking to unseat the incumbent. And the thing is, she’s very likely to win. ‘Very’, very likely.

When she talks about welfare reform she doesn’t come from the mean-spirit that’s infecting our current congress. She sees no reason to kick women and children first off welfare, without recourse or resource, as a way to check our pocketbooks. Instead, she preaches what she’s practiced.

She created, and for the last ten years has been running, Women Unlimited, which is, she says, “.... a program that accomplishes what politicians in Washington can only hope for; it’s a model of welfare reform that really works.”

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She’s a plain spoken woman, the way you’d expect from a State-o’-Maine.

Her clothes, haircut, shoes reflect more her good Maine values then the cosmetic value too many female politicians usually opt for. You know, that slick, glossy look that seems borrowed more from the Politicians’ Wives Handbook than the manual on bringing ethics and fair play back to government. That wouldn’t be her style. And it wouldn’t fly in her district.

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EVERYONE’S TALKING

KC’s Club 909
909 Church Street

The ‘96 Pride Committee would like to thank everyone who made last Saturday’s Pride Benefit a huge success, we raised $1,000!!!

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PRESENTS

TROPICAL NIGHTS

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SUNDAY MARCH 31ST
10PM

STARRING

MAYA DOUGLAS MISS GAY U.S.of A. 1995
SABLE CHANEL MISS GAY U.S.of A. 1991
MONICA MONROE MISS CONTINENTAL 1993
RITA ROSS MISS GAY TENN. U.S.of A. 1988
BIANCA PAIGE MISS GAY TENN. U.S.of A. 1990
STEPHANIE WELLS MISS GAY TENN. U.S.of A. 1992
AMBER STARD MISS GAY TENN. U.S.of A. 1994
CHRISTINA BREE' MISS GAY TENN. U.S.of A. 1995

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(615) 742-1166
(615) 847-3558

SISTER SAGE’S ASTROLOGICAL READINGS

ARIES MARCH 21ST - APRIL 20TH

You feel quite electric now with boundless energy. This is an excellent time to begin something new. It might be a new relationship or another personal project. Being assertive is not a problem for you so you might find yourself acting like a regular steamroller. Please try to be a bit more sensitive to the feelings of other people in your life.

TAURUS APRIL 21ST - MAY 20TH

You have a lot on your mind at this time as you deal with many issues in your past. It’s necessary to give yourself time for meditation or even daydreaming, allowing you to connect with those elusive inner voices that can help you make sense of all those memories, thoughts and feelings. Then make plans and preparations for the next steps you will take in your life’s journey.

GEMINI MAY 21ST - JUNE 20TH

You are involved with long term goals and planning your future. You are busy with your existing social life. You receive more invitations than you can possibly accept and you enjoy being overbooked to the max. Your special sweetheart wants more of your time and they are planning a seduction to get you to sit up and take notice and maybe even howl at the moon.

CANCER JUNE 21ST - JULY 22ND

It seems like you are busy working around the clock. You have deadlines and pressures at work. Get together with some friends and take advantage of a local attraction you enjoy. Someone wants to introduce you to a new friend with whom you have a lot in common. A special love token for your sweet heart is greatly appreciated. You decide to share a romantic interlude even if it makes you lose sleep.

LEO JULY 23RD - AUGUST 22ND

There are any number of reasons for traveling and you will be making a trip soon. You feel connected to distant people and far away places. You are making sense of your life and your previous choices. A good friend is ok to use for a sounding board and a wise counselor but be careful not to wear them out with too much negativity.

VIRGO AUGUST 23RD - SEPTEMBER 22ND

You are quite intuitive and often have deep insights into other people. Everyone wants to confide in you and you listen without being critical. You crave a satisfying intimate relationship so you reach out to your lover to grow closer. If you are unattached, any romance that begins now will have a strongly sexual component. Be willing to go off on the spur of the moment now and then to just enjoy life.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23RD - OCTOBER 22ND

You work on partnership issues as you deal with conflict in your relationship. It’s important that you open up with someone you trust so you can feel safe about sharing your needs and feelings. The quarrels serve to point out areas in your partnerships that require work and attention. Decide to concentrate on what’s good in your life so make plans for the most of what you have.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23RD - NOVEMBER 21ST

You are focused on your health and now is the time to make a commitment to take better care of yourself. You feel like having an adventure in your life so decide to do something out of the ordinary. A friend asks you to fix him or her up with a new romantic partner. A former romantic partner asks a favor that you regard as inappropriate and you have no trouble refusing it.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22ND - DEC. 21ST

This is a very agreeable time for you and you will be enjoying life. There are many opportunities for fun with friends. You also feel quite romantic, and if you are unattached you will seek pleasant companionship, perhaps with someone who will become a true love. Expressing yourself creatively is rewarding as well. Spend time with the children in your life (or pets) who are special to you and let your inner child enjoy the experience too.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22ND - JANUARY 19TH

You are involved in all sorts of personal and domestic projects. This is an excellent time to make household improvements. This is also a nice time to entertain, whether you are hosting friends or business contacts. To enjoy being at home and sharing your life with people you love. You also think about how lucky you are to have certain special people in your life.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20TH - FEBRUARY 18TH

You have many activities scheduled now and it seems that you’re always on the phone chatting, responding to invitations or organizing social activities. You meet new people easily while attending to errands and by getting involved in neighborhood happenings, perhaps some that are charity oriented. An athletic activity allows you to be involved and you resolve to spend more time exercising on a regular basis. A romantic partner wants to share a special evening with you.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19TH - MARCH 20TH

You focus most of your energy on making money. You are not a financial whiz but now you really want to get your finances in order and you’re willing to work extra hard to achieve that goal. In fact this can be a very fruitful period in which you make important strides toward a professionally fulfilling career goal. Socializing with career contacts helps you get ahead.

XENOCENEY MARCH 19, 1996
WHERE'S MY DAD? (Chattanooga)

(GWM, 20, 5'10", 165, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks others for more information. Leave me a message.)

GWM, 33, 5'11", 175, seeks others for fun. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 34, 6', 190, seeks others for more information. Leave me a message. (Knoxville)

GWM, 35, 5'10", 165, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks others for information. Leave me a message. (Murfreesboro)

GWM, 36, 5'10", 170, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks others for fun and more. Leave me a message. (Nashville)

GWM, 37, 5'8", 185, brown hair and eyes, seeks others for friendship and possibly more. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 38, 5'11", 180, finds others for more. Leave me a message. (Nashville)

GWM, 39, 5', 150, blue hair, blue eyes, seeks others for friendship and possibly more. Leave me a message. (Nashville)

GWM, 39, 5'10", 170, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks others for friendship and possibly more. Leave me a message. (Nashville)

GWM, 40, 170, 5'10", prefers to remain anonymous. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 41, 5'9", 170, 140, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks others for friendship and possibly more. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 42, 6', 170, finds others for more. Leave me a message. (Nashville)

GWM, 43, 5', 160, seeks others for more. Leave me a message. (Nashville)

GWM, 44, 5'9", 150, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks others for friendship and possibly more. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 45, 5', 150, 200, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks others for friendship and possibly more. Leave me a message. (Nashville)

GWM, 46, 5', 160, seeks others for more. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 47, 5', 150, 180, seeks others for friendship and possibly more. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 48, 5', 160, seeks others for more. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 49, 5', 160, 200, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks others for friendship and possibly more. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 50, 5', 170, finds others for more. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 51, 5', 160, prefers to remain anonymous. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 52, 5', 160, finds others for more. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 53, 5', 160, prefers to remain anonymous. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 54, 5', 160, finds others for more. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 55, 5', 160, prefers to remain anonymous. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 56, 5', 160, finds others for more. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 57, 5', 160, prefers to remain anonymous. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 58, 5', 160, finds others for more. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 59, 5', 160, prefers to remain anonymous. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 60, 5', 160, finds others for more. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

I'M LOOKING FOR FUN. (Chattanooga)

GWM, 20, 5'10", 165, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks others for more information. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 30, 6', 190, seeks others for more information. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 40, 5'10", 170, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks others for more information. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 50, 5'10", 170, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks others for more information. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

I'M HERE AND WAITING. (Chattanooga)

GWM, 20, 5'10", seeks others for more information. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 30, 6', 190, seeks others for more information. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 40, 5'10", 170, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks others for more information. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

GWM, 50, 5'10", 170, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks others for more information. Leave me a message. (Memphis)

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I'M TIRED OF SECOND BEST. GWM, 26, 6' 4", light brown hair, seeks 35-40, attractive and straight acting male who's not afraid to show his feelings. Leave me a message. (Nashville) ~35455

LET'S GROW OLD TOGETHER. GWM, 31, HIV+, seeks hairy and/or shaved men ready to settle down. You must be attractive and HIV+. Leave me a message. (Kingsport) ~496914

LETS' PLAY. GWM, 20, seeks others for fun and more. Leave me a call. (Knoxville) ~490921

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Lauritsen, John and Hank Wilson,

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REV MEL WHITE RESPONDS

"The murder of 16 Scottish children and their teacher is a terrible tragedy," says the Rev. Troy Perry, founder and presiding Elder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

"Lesbians, gays, and bisexuals in America condemn this violent act and express our sincere sympathy to the people of Dunblane who are suffering through this horrible consequence."

Founded by Elder Perry almost thirty years ago, the 300 U.F.M.C.C. congregations in 17 different nations, serve primarily lesbian and gay congregants.

"The tens of thousands of lesbian and gay Christians we serve stand united against all mistreatment of children from simple neglect to sexual abuse and murder," declares the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, pastor of the U.F.M.C.C. mother church in Los Angeles, California.

"Unfortunately," she adds, "when a man is accused of same sex child abuse, extremists use the occasion to demonize all gay men and lesbian women. In fact, pedophilia is not associated with sexual orientation and it must be condemned rigorously by homosexuals and heterosexuals alike."

"I'm hoping," adds Dr. Mel White, U.F.M.C.C. Minister of Justice, "that leaders of the extremist religious and political movements in Great Britain and in the U.S., will not use this tragedy to frighten and confuse their followers. Pat Robertson, founder of the Christian Coalition, and other fundamentalist Christians often exploit people's fears and confusion about homosexuality to raise money and mobilize recruits. Their false and inflammatory rhetoric against God's gay and lesbian children only leads to more suffering and death."

GAY FILMS ARE A DRAG

According to Hollywood, homosexuality officially did not exist between the years 1934 and 1961. During those 27 years, the Motion Picture Production Code saw to it that any depiction of "sex perversion" was banned from the screen. Is it any wonder that the love that dare not speak its name has been shrouded in the shadows? No more lies."

"Coming out is like an incredibly huge weight being lifted from my shoulders," Spencer-Divin said. "No more living in the shadows. No more lies."

Spencer-Divin said her declaration was a personal matter and that "no way anybody elected me head lesbian of the LPGA."

"I'm not anybody's mouthpiece, and I don't want to be perceived as such," she said, adding that lesbians are a minority on tour but say to a public perception that the LPGA is filled with gays.

The LPGA has been dogged by whispers about lesbianism on the tour and in a celebrated incident last year, television commentator Ben Wright was eventually fired for making derogatory remarks about how lesbianism hurt the popularity of women's professional golf.

LPGA officials were supportive of Spencer-Divin.

"I applaud Muffin," LPGA president and 19-year tour veteran Vicki Fergon was quoted as saying. "I'm not saying every player will be thrilled about it, but we're a family and we respect each other."

TOWN SUED OVER LESBIAN TEACHER

When a high school teacher told her social studies class she was a lesbian, one student was so upset she was forced to transfer to a private school, the teen-agers parents claim.

Jeanine and Thomas Jeniec are seeking $359,571 from the town of Brookline— including $300,000 for emotional distress—saying their daughter Johanna was denied her right to a public education.

"Johanna is a young woman who believes in God and believes in Jesus Christ as her savior," said the Jeniec's lawyer, Randal Fritz. "She was just completely overwhelmed by people bringing their sexual and political agendas into the school."

Town officials say there is no merit to the family's claim for damages, made in a so-called demand letter that often is a preliminary to a lawsuit.

Fritz said teacher Polly Atwood announced her sexual orientation at Brookline High three years ago after being interviewed on television about a state bill to protect the rights of gay students.

According to Hollywood, homosexuality officially did not exist between the years 1934 and 1961. During those 27 years, the Motion Picture Production Code saw to it that any depiction of "sex perversion" was banished from the screen. Is it any wonder that the love that dare not speak its name has, lately, been hollering from the rooftops? At the recent Sundance Film Festival in Utah, lesbian characters were so ubiquitous on screen that gay film critic Ruby Rich quipped, "We're this year's Jack Russell terriers." And this was less than an hour away from Salt Lake City, where, before passing anti-gay legislation, the Utah Senate met secretly to watch a lurid anti-gay propaganda film.

What a shame the senators weren't treated instead to The Celluloid Closet, from which they would have learned that the defaming of gays on film has a long and ignoble tradition. This smart, ruefully funny documentary, is based on a ground-breaking book by the late Vito Russo.
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