SAN DIEGO — Gays and lesbians endeavored on numerous levels to make their voices heard before and during the Republican National Convention here Aug. 12-15. If they did not at all times succeed, it was not for lack of trying.

The gay Log Cabin Republicans (LCR), a national organization with 10,000 members, got the ball rolling with their national convention held in San Diego’s University Heights neighborhood August 9-11.

As of mid-week, when this report was filed, LCR’s 200 conventioners had not yet decided whether to endorse Bob Dole’s candidacy, (in the end, the endorsement was withheld). Group spokesmen told reporters it might help them make up their minds if Dole were to ask for the endorsement. LCR did not endorse George Bush in 1992.

“Much to our frustration,” said LCR Executive Director Rich Tafel, “Bob Dole as a presidential candidate has repeatedly compromised, retreated or reversed himself under pressure from the extreme right. Despite our best efforts, Bob Dole has passed up a critical opportunity to demonstrate that he truly wants to lead a party which welcomes the participation of gays and lesbians. [For him to request our endorsement] would be somewhat historic, and we’re very aware of that.”

“We are like Dorothy in Oz,” Brian Perry of Log Cabin California told fellow delegates the opening night of the LCR meeting. “In our journey, we’re going to run into a few scarecrows, some people who just don’t have a brain, and our role is to help them understand and educate them. There are the tin woodsmen who don’t have a heart, and we have to present ourselves as real people and make them understand that it’s about caring — and concerning our lives about each other that is so important. And there’s the toughest ones of all, the cowardly lions, who just need that courage. We talk to them privately and they do the right thing most of the time but when push comes to shove, when it’s really on the line, they need that extra courage.”

Lackland Air Force Base. Testimony was to start last week.

Maj. Debra L. Meeks to proceed before a military jury at Lackland Air Force Base. Testimony was to start last week.

Defense lawyers said it was rare under current military policy for an Air Force officer to be tried on a sodomy charge involving alleged private activity between two consenting adults. They said it amounted to “selective and vindictive” prosecution.

“We are asking you to determine and deter bad police conduct, because that’s what you’ve got,” defense attorney Peter Held told the judge. “You’ve got a sex patrol out there running around.”

Meeks, 41, is accused of sexual involvement with civilian Pamela Dillard. She also is charged with conduct unbecoming an officer stemming from Dillard’s 1994 allegation that Meeks threatened her with a gun.

Meeks denies the allegations. She could face up to eight years in a military jail, discharge from the Air Force and loss of retirement benefits if convicted of both charges.

Under the “don’t ask, don’t tell” rule implemented in 1994, gays are permitted to serve in the military as long as they don’t have sex with service members and keep their sexual orientation and conduct private.

Meeks never has publicly disclosed her sexual orientation. Her attorneys claim the Air Force investigation into a homosexuality allegation against Meeks violated Defense Department policy requiring that credible evidence be present and that the probe be launched only by the service member’s commander.

In Meeks’ case, they said, an Air Force investigator — not her commander — began the probe and it first involved only the assault allegation, not homosexuality. The defense also claims Dillard’s credibility was not thoroughly checked.
**HIV/AIDS DIGEST**

*From The CDC AIDS Daily Summary*

The health insurance bill recently approved by Congress includes a significant tax break for people with chronic or terminal illnesses. The bill allows these people to exclude accelerated death benefits or payments they receive from selling their life insurance policies to qualified "viatical settlement providers" from their reported income. Currently, people who receive such payments must pay federal income tax on the money.

**TAX RELIEF**

**GENES THAT PROTECT AGAINST AIDS**

Genetic mutations are not necessarily bad, as evidenced by the recently discovered mutation that protects some people from HIV infection, notes a New York Times editorial. Researchers at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York City announced last week that they had found a genetic mutation in two homosexual men who remained uninfected despite repeated exposure to HIV. Because they had a defective gene, their cells also lacked a receptor needed for the virus to enter. The scientists say the finding could help explain why some people, who may only have one copy of the gene, are able to survive HIV infection longer than others. The new discovery could also be used for the development of better drugs or a vaccine, the editors conclude.

**BEING HIV NEGATIVE**

Just as gay psychotherapists have used self-disclosure as a tool to help clients feel understood, the disclosure of serostatus by social service providers could be beneficial. By serving as role models, counselors can help uninfected gay men stay uninfected and help men with AIDS take care of themselves, while aiding both infected and affected men in maintaining a sense of hope and intimacy. Role modeling has been useful for many HIV-negative gay men, who often feel abandoned by communities and social services which focus on the needs of the HIV-positive community. As they serve as caregivers, outsiders, and mourners, HIV-negative gay men are often unable to express their fears of becoming infected, or to discuss their loneliness or burnout. Many even let other people assume they are infected. As a result, mental health and social service providers have begun developing services, including support groups, especially for uninfected men.

**AIDS COMPASSION**

At the Republican National Convention Monday night, HIV-positive AIDS activist Mary Fischer repeated the call for AIDS compassion that she made at the 1992 convention in Houston. She was joined by 12-year-old Hydiea Broadbent of Las Vegas, who was born to an infected drug user and adopted by Patricia Broadbent when she was six weeks old. The girl read a poem she had written, saying "I have a bright future and no one can take that away from me. I am the future."

**HIV/PATIENTS**

A total of 2,500 patients at 50 clinical trial sites nationwide will receive a new treatment for HIV infection, aimed at preventing the progression to AIDS. Remune, developed by the late Dr. Jonas Salk, is designed to boost the immune system to control HIV. The treatment is made from HIV that has been inactivated with radiation and has had a protein removed. The treatment, developed by Immune Response Corp., has shown some evidence of boosting the immune system.

**GAY MEN SHOW LITTLE INTEREST**

About half of the homosexual or bisexual men living in the greater Boston area said they would be "somewhat interested" in participating in clinical trials of HIV vaccines, researchers say. Michael Gross of Abt Associates and colleagues surveyed 630 men in two age groups and found that 34 percent were "not at all" interested and 16 percent were "very" interested. Older men were significantly more likely than younger men to show interest.

**PROTEASE AND INHIBITORS**

By changing enough to prevent a drug from binding to it, HIV protease can become drug-resistant after a patient has been taking it for only a few weeks. Researchers are studying ways to make drugs less vulnerable to HIV's changes; however, they first need to understand how the virus affects drug binding. Paul Alia and colleagues at DuPont/Merck Pharmaceutical recently presented their work on HIV's resistance to their protease inhibitor DMP323 at the 11th International Conference on AIDS. Although problems with DMP323 took it out of consideration for use in humans, the scientists noted that it is a valuable tool to help in the understanding of how HIV mutates to prevent the drug from binding. The research could also be important for understanding resistance to protease inhibitors in general.

**HIV HOMELESS**

A survey of homeless people in Denver found a low rate of HIV infection, but a group of Colorado disease experts concluded that high risk behaviors are common among the population. Judith C. Shlay of the University of Colorado in Denver and colleagues found the overall HIV rate among people who attended a homeless clinic in Denver was 0.9 percent. Among the participants, 41 percent reported previous injection drug use and 22 percent said they had used injection drugs in the past 12 months. While most subjects said they currently used condoms more frequently than in the past and had fewer sex partners, 60 percent reported not using a condom in the past 12 months.
COMMUNITY NOTES

NASHVILLE GAY WEB

If you are on-line and have access to the World Wide Web, you're in luck! Gay Nashville has merged onto the information superhighway and is quickly getting up to speed. Enter the url http://nashvillegayweb.com and you have a updated guide to the geshy festivities happening in Middle Tennessee!

NashvilleGayWeb is a cyber village and information center that will keep the community stay abreast of the happenings of gay Music City. Out of town visitors can also arrive with knowledge of gay and lesbian Nashville, having found the site entering two key words, gay and Nashville on search engines that comb the web and return NashvilleGayWeb site in a matter of seconds.

Steve Simmons of Digital Designs, the creator of the website promises a professional appearance and feel for gay Nashville's corner of cyber space. A computer user might be interested in the business or entertainment listings, but contact information for the various social and community organizations is offered as well. According to Simmons, "Most on-line users have the ability to create personal home pages on the web through their service providers. NashvilleGayWeb was developed with the whole community in mind. We want this website to function as a guide to the many diverse businesses and activities of gay and lesbian Nashville."

Future plans for NashvilleGayWeb include interactivity between businesses, organizations and users ("users" referring to visitor to the site). "Our goal is to keep it fun and interesting and that users will bookmark it as a favorite haunt in their cyber world."

Simmons is not new to being at the leading edge of technology. As vice president of internal audit for a large retail organization for 15 years, he was recognized by other retailers around the country for being among the first to utilize lap-top computers in field audit applications.

Simmons has also been extremely active in Nashville's gay scene for some time, hosting various community benefits and fund-raisers as a former co-owner of local gay bars/restaurants.

For additional information on NashvilleGayWeb, call (615) 883-2637 or e-mail webmaster@nashvillegayweb.com.

COALITION ELECTIONS

The Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice (LGCJ) will be electing officers in October. The elected positions on the LGCJ Board of Directors are Co-chairs (one female, one male), Treasurer, and Secretary. Members may run for these offices and vote for candidates. Anyone who wishes either to run for office or vote should make sure their membership is paid for the current year.

Nominations of LGCJ members for office are welcome. Nominations must be received by Thursday, September 5th for inclusion in next month's newsletter "Communicator."

Voting will take place at the October program meeting, Thursday, October 17, at 7pm at St. Ann's Episcopal Church located at 5th and Woodland Street.

The term of service for all LGCJ officers is one year, beginning on January 1st and ending on December 31st.

Current Co-chair, Rhonda White will run for a second term. Call (615) 298-LGCJ for additional information.

OUTING CONGRESS

A gay journalist outs another congressman! A New England-based gay television show last week aired a segment outing conservative Rep. Mark Foley, a Republican from West Palm Beach, Florida. Foley's press secretary would neither confirm nor deny the report.

The gay journalist, Kurt Wolfe, executive director of "Out in New England," said he was going to out gay lawmakers voting in favor of DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act.

The week before, two conservative Republican Congressmen Jim Kolbe of Arizona and Jim McCreary of Louisiana were also outed.

Kolbe confirmed the report at a D.C. press conference and received support from colleagues. Rep. McCreary denied the story and issued no further comment.

CLINTON LETTER

Dear Stephen:

Thank you for contacting me regarding marriage of couples of the same gender.

In 1992, I stated my opposition to same-gender marriage, and recently, when the issue was raised in Congress, I said that if a bill consistent with my previously stated position reached my desk, I would sign it.

I strongly believe, however, that raising this issue is divisive and unnecessary. It is yet another attempt to divert the American people from the urgent need to confront our challenges together. The rich fabric of American society is woven from the threads of our shared experience, and it is of the utmost importance that our nation work to expand this common ground.

Throughout my public life, I have strongly opposed discrimination against any group of people, including gay and lesbian Americans, and I have supported legislation to outlaw discrimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace. I have also sought to heighten public awareness of the discrimination and promote inclusion in order to send a message of equality and acceptance.

My Administration has taken more steps than any other on behalf of gay and lesbian Americans. For the first time in history, we have openly gay and lesbian individuals serving in senior Administration positions, and their impact has been significant—and positive. In addition, I have issued an executive order prohibiting discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in the granting of security clearances. I believe that we must make the most out of our great diversity and continue to help people rise as far as their talents and determination can take them.

I know this is a difficult issue for many Americans, and I appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton
Remixes of classic songs have had a wide appeal since people are more apt to buy songs they know or songs they have always loved. The problem comes when songs get rereleased on almost a yearly basis. For example, how often does “Don’t Leave Me This Way” get remixed?

These classic remixes vary in quality. While Cherly Lynn has been lucky, Donna Summer and Blondie have not always been. Manifesto Records UK has remixed both “I Feel Love” and “State of Independence” with mixed results. While the Rollo mix of “I Feel Love” was great, the highlight of the single was the reggae mix. “State of Independence” was horrendously butchered so badly by the Marqu Boys that the vocals did not even phrase with the beat. On the same wavelength, “Union City Blue,” “Atomic,” and “The Tide is High” were successfully updated, while remixes of “Heart of Glass” and “Rapture” literally sucked the energy and fun out of the originals.

Retro/early 80’s music has been reappearing consistently over the past few years. Cyndi Lauper’s “Girls Just Want to Have Fun” was remixed in both a reggae and a house direction. The reggae version was cute, but the house mix killed the original fun and campy sound. New wave classic “Cars” by Gary Numan has been through the ringer as well. New remixes of this song have been released every other year since 1989. I am not joking.

House and techno classics have not escaped the remix/rerelease concept either. SNAP’s “The Power” which some see as the first mainstream house record has been rereleased for 1996. While the vocal mix stays true to the original, the reggae mix is both unnecessary and insulting. Rozalla is in the same boat with remixes of “Everybody’s Free” by Tony De Vit and Casino about to be released.

Alison Limerick’s upcoming greatest hits package has been previewed by two remix packages, “Where Love Lives” and “Make It On My Own.” With mixes by Morales, Dancing Divas, and Romaniho, the “Where Love Lives” package is nearly flawless as it stretches over three 12” records. “Make It On My Own” fares well in it’s Dancing Diva mix as well.

It has gotten to the point that dance songs just a year old are remixed and repackaged. British dance artists are notorious for this. A song will be released commercially for a short time and then pulled off the market. The song will grow in the clubs gain a following. Several months later, the rerelease will sell through a lot higher. Do people really think it was Rollo’s mix of “Living Joy’s Dreamer” that got it to debut at number one in England?

Grace’s breakthrough single “Not Over Yet” began as an underground hit that exploded in the clubs. It’s about to be rereleased again. Strike’s “I Sure Do” got a second shot as well. People really think it was Rollo’s mix of “State of Independence” that got it to debut at number one in England?

TheJackson siblings are also notorious for their remix/rerelease packages. To promote their respective greatest hits packages, several of Michael and Janet’s releases went back for another remodel. Michael’s hits were all remixed together for a greatest hits medley. In addition, “Wanna Be Startin’ Something” and “Thriller” both went under the knife again. Janet’s “Love Will Never Do Without You,” “Best Things In Life Are Free,” and “When I Think of You” were all remixed in the past few months.

Other artists get remixed and rereleased. For a second shot in the United States, Billie Jean Martin’s epic opus “Your Loving Arms” has had three separate remix packages. Originally an import with mixes by Discuss, the Grid, and Junior Vasquez, a second set of European mixes by Brothers in Rhythm floated around on promo. The US release brought new mixes by Roger Sanchez (yawn!). The current US release rerelease rushed out Todd Terry’s remixes for a successful radio crossover. Her follow-up “Running Around Town” has been freshly remixed by Tony Moran and Spike for a second shot at US clubs.

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ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY
Music City Rollers Winter Bowling League: 12:30 p.m. 227-3543
Volunteer Volleyball: 1:30 p.m. 297-0008
Stonewall Mission Church: 6:30 p.m. at 703 Berry Road 297-0008
Dayspring Christian Fellowship: 7:00 p.m. 13th & Holly Street at East United Methodist Church in east Nashville 227-3261
Metropolitan Community Church: 7:00 p.m. 1808 Woodmont Blvd.

MONDAY
Positive Voice: 6-8pm at the Connection for HIV+ individuals & friends 742-1166
NOW!: National Organization for Women 4th Monday 7:00 p.m. 292-6311
TUESDAY
MTSU Lambda Association: 6:30 p.m. Fall & Winter 780-2293
Southern Country Dancers: The Chute 7:00 p.m. 2535 Franklin Rd.
P-FLAG: Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gay Services located at 703 Berry Rd 297-0008
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 7:00p.m. 703 Berry Rd 297-0008
Integrity: 4th Tuesday 297-0008
MENTORS: Sacred Space for Men. Discussion/ Support Group. Tues. 7-9pm at the Center, 703 Berry Road. Phone 269-4342
Mentor Group (AA): 8:00 p.m. 1808 Woodmont Blvd

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 7pm, the 1st Thurs, & the general membership meets 7pm, the 3rd Thurs. At St. Ann’s Episcopal Church 5th & Woodland. Info 298- LGCJ (5425)
INTERACT: Gay men’s discussion group 7:00-8:30 P.M. on 2nd & 4th Thursday 703 Berry Road 297-0008
Vanderbilt Lambda Association: 7:30 p.m. Winter & Fall 322 -0376
Altenatives (AA): 7:30 p.m. 2007 Acklen Ave.

FRIDAY
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: Meets every week at Noon! At the Center 703 Berry Road. Everyone is welcome!!!
Tennessee Vais: 1016 18th Ave South

OTHER
Clarksville CARES: 1-615-503-4063
Human Rights Campaign: 292-0007
The Center: 297-0008
Positive Voice: 383-9285
Columbia CARES: 1-615-351-0114
Music City Panel Makers: 876-0770
Nashville CARES: 259-4866
Sports & Fitness Network: 297-0008

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THE PERFECT FIT

BY BARRY A. NOLAND

Hello, my people! It’s Barry, back again with more of the wisdom of the ages to impart. Since this is, happily, the second time you’re reading this column, I won’t bother to re-explain my philosophy of life-pervading creativity and balance, but I will bother to reintroduce it-focussing on the latter principle. Yes, BALANCE is the buzz-word this issue. And the pop-song mantra this week: “The secret of any success in the organization of the non-obvious...” (PM Dawn-“Comatose” 1992) Please allow me to help make it more obvious and then to organize it.

My thesis statement: Balance is a good, good thing; balance is a beautiful thing! OK. So your first question should be? “What is balance?” Good! That’s a pretty direct approach; but what is imbalance? My definition: Imbalance exists when one part of a whole becomes unnecessarily out of synchronicity with the part/s. Conversely, balance exists when no one part is allowed to unnecessarily outshine the rest.

Shall we now define “unnecessarily” no, we shan’t: It’s never necessary to be out of balance. What we need to define are the “wholes” and “parts.” Let’s start with the Big Whole: LIFE. Life is comprised of two main wholes—the ephemeral and the temporal. The Epemeral is the non-tangible world inhabited by such concepts as spirit, soul, love, and reality for which we’ve created words but did not actually create their existence. Man created The Temporal World as well as the relative importance of and the rules governing everything in it: gods, relationships, money, career, race, sexual identity, and workout routines.

Of course, The Big Wholes are themselves always in balance because they define each other. The troubles of the world throughout history have arisen from man’s pride in believing that he knows with definitive status what subordinate wholes go with Big Wholes and what their relative importance should be to each other. The trouble is that man actually does know. We just can’t tap into that knowledge with any surety because assumptions on the ephemeral change depending upon what new ideas we come up with in the temporal. Not to mention the confusion caused by the fact that, although we are probably more generally agreed upon sexy parts. Although this dynamic appears to be the same throughout male-kind, it seems to have become a definitive signature of the created gay culture.

As an admirer of the human form, I love great pecs (and arms, abs, or butts) on anyone—male or female. As a devil—it’s advocate, there’s nothing wrong with designing yourself to individual preferences or purposes as long as the desire is actually more individual than peer-pressure induced. However, as a supposed professional who helps to unleash more beautiful people in the world, I try to instill in my charges the beauty and sensuality of balance. Think about it: What makes Van Damme’s or Schwarzenegger’s bodies more incredible than the guy with the amazing pecs you saw out last weekend? Isn’t it that everything is great and nothing too greatly overshadows anything else. Everyone can pick and choose their favorite part.

Admittedly, genetics will play a substantial role, but that’s just another factor to be taken into consideration when creating your balance—not an excuse to take yourself even further out of balance. Don’t get me wrong, I definitely believe in accentuating your innate strengths; just not at the expense of your innate weaknesses and normalities. Health-wise, imbalance causes undue stress on both weak and strong parts as the body systems naturally seek to bring themselves into balance. Ideally, your goal for your body should be to make every part a strong part! To make no part of the whole necessarily out of sync with the other parts.

Your lessons this week:
1.) Balance is beautiful.
2.) Design your body to your own specifications.
3.) Make sure you know which parts go with which holes (OOPS!) Buh-bye!

Barry A. Noland is a freelance personal fitness trainer in Nashville, call (615) 327-0709.

1/2 price coffee drink with this coupon expires August 31st

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A NEW JESSE HELMS???

Certainly no one who saw the first television spot of Helms' re-election campaign, broadcast in April, would have called the senator huggable.

In the style of Helms, Republican of North Carolina, the commercial was a blunt-edged attack on the two Democrats who were competing to oppose him this fall. Its main points were that both supported "racial preferences in hiring" and "extending health insurance to homosexual partners."

It hardened to Helms' last contest, in 1990, when he defeated a Democrat, Harvey Gantt, in a bitter contest that was notable in part because of Helms' subtle emphasis on race. Gantt is black.

Gantt is back for a second try, having won the Democratic primary in April. And now, voters are seeing the softer side of Helms.

Helms' latest television advertisement, on crime, opens with a manacled prisoner being unshackled as a narrator recalls how violent criminals used to be prisoner being unshackled as a narrator recalls how violent criminals used to be. The spot ends with a little girl ambling safely down a country road.

There is more, North Carolinians say. For years, Helms has been among the most adamant opponents of abortion in Congress, saying in 1990 that he "will never sit idly by while people say it's just a choice."

But last week, Helms told The Associated Press that he understood the position of abortion rights backers; they also dislike abortion, but "it's the choice part that they're talking about."

In 1990, Helms answered journalists' questions only by fax. In 1996, he is available for interviews "as often as time permits," said his spokeswoman, Julie Wilkie.

Ms. Wilkie says Helms' abortion statement is not a softening of his views. The Gantt camp says the new Helms "is a lot like the old Jesse."

Others wonder, noting that Helms has dumped his old red-meat campaign strategists, from the Congressional Club, and hired a Texas media adviser, Scott Howell, who is renowned for his string-pulling commercials.

"The guy's been born again," said Ted Arrington, a political science professor and election-watcher at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. "This is an enormous change." But he adds that Helms comfortably leads Gantt in the latest polls.

"The real test of a candidate's intentions," he said, "is what he does when he's slightly behind."

JACK KEMP

Kemp is a Trojan Horse candidate. While he appears to be a mainstream conservative that offers the ticket a focus on conservative economic policies, Kemp, in fact, is an extremist, out of step with mainstream America.

Over the last fifteen years, Kemp has been part of the leadership of the hard Right, whose agenda is antithetical to democracy. His voting record brands him as a right-winger on such issues as abortion, discrimination against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders, and people living with HIV and AIDS.

Aug 11 Sunday New York Times "I believe in civil liberties for homosexuals. I guess I'd have to say I'd draw the line at letting them teach in the schools."

Jack Kemp —1987

ACT UP NASHVILLE?

Steve Michael, the HIV positive AIDS activist from ACT UP Washington visited Tennessee this past weekend.

Tennessee, with its electoral college votes, will be a key battleground state in the upcoming presidential election. As Clinton maintains his considerable lead in most polls, showing support in California and New York, while Bob Dole struggles to maintain his lead in the South in repeated visits to Florida and Texas, both campaigns are expected to step up activity in Tennessee as a critical swing state.

Since Tennessee sent two Republicans to the United States Senate last year, it is clear that the Clinton and Dole campaigns will both focus on the Volunteer State. Vice-President Al Gore will be pressured to keep his home state in the win column. Bob Dole will fight to take Tennessee away from Gore.

We can put AIDS issues in the national spotlight as candidates and the national media turn their attention to Tennessee. Following the Democratic National Convention in 1992 at a Clinton/Gore rally in Columbus, a handful of individuals working independently showed up with signs reading "Red Ribbons Are Not Enough." ACT UP activists trailed the Clinton "bus tour" demanding he discuss AIDS issues not just in New York or San Francisco, but in America's heartland. A plan to remind Clinton of his 1992 AIDS promises. There is little doubt that President Clinton will win re-election, despite deep dissatisfaction with the Administration's performance on AIDS issues. From the lack of an AIDS Czar and a national plan to fight the epidemic, to his failure to lift the federal ban on needle exchange funding, and launch a Manhattan-style project for a cure, we need to remind Clinton of his 1992 AIDS promises.

Elections provide a unique opportunity for visibility and discussion of AIDS, of what can and should be done by elected officials to help end this epidemic.

To this end, HIV+ activist Steve Michael from Washington DC and Michael Northrop from ACT UP New York are working to place the AIDS Cure Party on the ballot in several states as candidates for President and Vice President.

ACT UP'ers will run un-censorable TV spots focusing on Clinton's failed HIV prevention efforts As candidates, AIDS activists can generate more in depth discussion of AIDS issues beyond a 15 second spot of a 'What About AIDS?' sign on the evening news. Presidential campaigns are entitled to sizable discounts on television advertising rates.

During the New Hampshire primary, we were able to air three AIDS awareness commercials on the ABC affiliate WMUR in Manchester for as little as $20 per sixty second spot. One was a safe sex commercial featuring two Gay men kissing. The second spot focused on the dangers of injection drug use and demonstrated how to clean a syringe with bleach to avoid HIV infection. The third featured a Vietnam veteran with AIDS (Commander Hank Cardé -USN, retired) calling upon Clinton to begin his promised all-out war on AIDS.

Two candidates + 25 signatures + 1 Tennessee Active Action = a Presidential Issue in the Volunteer State.

Only 25 signatures are required to place ACT UP members Michael and Northrop on the Tennessee ballot for the November election.

LIVING WITH HIV

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION INVESTIGATES—FINALLY

BY BILL TURNER

After years of suspicions, the Federal Election Commission (FEC) has finally begun to investigate the Christian Coalition (CC), an influential group that many experts believe to be a thinly veiled lobbying arm for religious groups with extreme political agendas.

The FEC's investigation was prompted by a complaint filed last year by the Interfaith Alliance and Americans United for Separation of Church and State. The groups claim that the CC has engaged in illegal lobbying activities, including the use of religious rhetoric to influence political candidates and issues.

The CC, which describes itself as a 'non-partisan' organization, has denied any wrongdoing, but the FEC has launched a formal investigation into the group's activities.

While the CC has a strong base among conservative Christians, it also has a growing presence among secular politicians and activists, who see its influence as a threat to the separation of church and state.

In his book 'The Age of Partisanship,' political analyst Thomas Frank argues that the CC is part of a larger trend towards the polarization of American politics, where ideological extremes are gaining ground at the expense of moderation and compromise.

The FEC investigation is likely to be a major development in the ongoing debate about the role of religion in American politics, and could have far-reaching implications for the future of the CC and other similar groups.

QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"[My songs] are usually about overcoming stuff which I think is what a lot of the problems are for the gay community, because there's a lot to overcome. I move in the theater world, the art world, so I have so many gay friends I don't even think about it. It's the individual, you know? I hate discrimination. I've fought against it all along. How dare anybody tell somebody else they can't do a certain thing in their own bedroom. How dare they say you can't have children, you can't put a significant other on your insurance? How dare— they?"


"I would never sing 'Over The Rainbow.' I go berserk when I hear people sing that song. It belongs to Judy."


"The possibility of me sleeping with different people is not an impossible thought. Liza Minnelli and Kate Jackson? That's an impossible thought!"

—Cher, discussing rumors about her sex life in an Advocate interview with her lesbian daughter, journalist Charity Bono.

"People always say to us, 'Your politics are so different, how do you get along?' And the answer is: We don't talk about politics when we're at home."

BOOK REVIEW

BY CHANDLER BURR

A SEPARATE CREATION: THE SEARCH FOR THE BIOLOGICAL ORIGINS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION

One of the first serious questions any of us asks is "Where did I come from?" We mostly learn the answer in stages, appropriately, beginning at about age three and continuing until we are sophisticated adults who can move on to other questions of deeper meaning, such as, "No, I mean, where did I come from?"

There is a beautifully written and important new book for those of us who really want to know, although it is only fair to warn the prospective reader that you will come away knowing both more and less about what makes you who - and what - you are.

Don't be frightened by the title. A Separate Creation: The Search for the Biological Origins of Sexual Orientation is a readable, quick-paced book with a lot of forward motion. Anyone who enjoys reading the New York Times should be able to handle it nicely, especially if you can get into the science used, or if you do the crossword, so much the better - your vocabulary will never be the same.

First, the genesis of the book. Four years ago author Chandler Burr was invited by James Fallows of the Atlantic Monthly to put together a piece about the biological research being done to determine if there is a natural cause for homosexuality. Burr was neither a scientist nor a journalist, but he had written an article on Japanese-American economics which he had submitted to Fallows. Fallows liked the writing, learned that Burr is gay and asked to researching the article that became a controversial cover story for the Atlantic. He then spent three years researching this volume, criss-crossing the country getting to know the geneticists, endocrinologists and other assorted scientists who make up the cast of characters. Oh, there is one other principal player: you.

Why are you gay - or straight - anyway? Is it biology or is it choice? That asks the question the way we're used to hearing it, in headlines or on television, but scientists, Burr reports, don’t see things as black and white, yes or no. There are not two sides to scientific questions, but millions. So Burr sets up his story (and it is more like a well-told tale than like any kind of scientific paper) with this smart conceit: a chapter detailing "Definitive Proof That Homosexuality Is Biological" followed by an equally convincing one that says it's not.

We promised you scientists, and they are drawn here as charming (or not), flesh-and-blood personalities: Simon LeVay, a gay neuroscientist at the Salk Clinic who discovered a measurable difference in the brains of straight and gay men; Dean Hamer and Angela Patattucci, the gay and lesbian geneticists whose study at the National Institute of Health located a "gene for gayness"; Bill Byne, who plays Lex Luther to Hamer’s Superman; and many, many others, both famous and notorious, from Harvard to Berkeley, whose careers sometimes are made or broken on the basis of their criticism of colleagues. Make no mistake, this stuff is controversial, these people often beloved or reviled by everyone from Larry Kramer to Pat Robertson. Because if the biological origins can be proven, then what? In his acknowledgments Burr quotes Dr. Patattucci: "If we only engage in projects we think will be non-controversial, using as our yardstick whether we can be mistaken, then we’re going to wind up doing nothing because nothing of scientific value can pass that test. And we’ll always be afraid of what we find."

What we find here includes lots of possibly irrelevant but definitely provocative animal and insect research; the history of "scientific" crimes against homosexuals (and an understanding of why research of human biology is ethically limited); the endlessly interesting interplay of hormones with our amazing brains and bodies; the modern science of psychopharmacology. We discover that biologists don’t frame the argument in terms of nature vs. nurture, but consider those two one and the same: "environment" includes nutrition (from the womb on), ecology, the presence or absence of countless proteins, bacteria and chemicals - even experience, which affects not only our psychology but our physiology as well.

And then there is genetics. It was only 1953 when DNA was explained, yet knowledge of the genetic map has grown exponentially, with some scientists expecting it will be complete before 2005. So, what "we just don’t know" is of terrible importance, such as how genes mutate during our lives. And once we identify a gene we still don’t know how many other jobs it may have or how many genes may help in its job. A Separate Creation will challenge your own notions of self, including whether you want an answer to that question that’s been bugging you for so long. Politically, for example, we accept the existence of bisexuality. Biologically, though, it is suspect, believed even less common than ambidexterity.

(0) Biologists are interested in true orientation here, it's not a word in behavior but in deep feeling. Many right-handed persons can function with the left hand when necessary; some even enjoy it. They're not right-handed.) A weightier issue is just what people will do with the information once we have it. Abort future homosexuals? Call their biology a "fixable" imperfection? Shouldn’t a woman know if her fetus carries the "gay gene"? What if her particular gene doesn’t match up with the "gene for gayness" that carries the weight of a car that goes - at a cost of about a hundred thousand dollars a year. Should the baby be born? Should treatment be started, even though the disease doesn’t always develop? The moral implications are not to be shrugged off.

Still, you can read this book, pleasure. Burr writes with a theatrical flair yet without melodramatics, and his consistently clever analogies can put even the most arcane science within the layman’s grasp - he describes the hypothalamus as "a nervous FBI to the thalamus's CIA", for instance, and insulin as a "chemical pass-key", comparing it to Androgen Receptor and its sensory FBI to the thalamus's CIA, for instance, and insulin as a "chemical pass-key", comparing it to Androgen Receptor and its social and political implications come into focus, so does the reality of this science. Angela Patattucci told Burr that she and other scientists aren’t "attempting to reduce an individual’s experience to a molecule ... we’re actually doing the opposite: we’re trying to ask how a molecule contributes to a person’s experience. There are hundreds of questions to be answered, but because we don’t answer them all immediately, people accuse us of ignoring these things. We’re not. We’re a small group of people doing the best we can.

The publisher of A Separate Creation is Hyperion, an imprint of the Walt Disney Company, and this book was included in the Southern Baptist Convention’s list of sins committed against good folk everywhere by the Mouse Men. Specifically, it is the idea of "separate creation" that got them going (the title comes from Darwin - that sends up a flare to creationists - and actually refers to the idea that man is not "the work of a separate act of creation" but descended from our hairier ancestors.) But Burr is the first to admit that conservatives are lining up to shake the hand of any scientist who can assign the "cause" of homosexuality to a virus, mutation or faulty bacteria - and of course many opponents of gay rights would hardly feel compelled to wait for proof.

Like the scientific clichés that make this story so fascinating, the question of "what happens then?" is still unknown. But perhaps the most powerful personal statement in Chandler Burr’s valuable book is Angela Patattucci’s warning against a hope - or fear - that a proven biological cause for homosexuality will lead to either an automatic end to new heights. "You don’t make laws against discrimination based on biology," she says. "You make them on principle, regardless of the origin."

CELEBRITY CHIT CHAT

BY RICHARD MORTON

* Congrats Nashville’s own Bianca Paige & Stephanie Wells! First & Second Place winners in the Tennessee Entertainers of the Year Contest in Louisville last weekend! We love ya Gals!!!

* The Music City Softball Classic Fund-raiser will be held Sunday at The Jungle. Raquel Scott, Speigle Paige, Chyna, April Stevens, Vanessa Lee, Ruth Silver, Barbara Deangelo, Stephanie Sharpie, Erica Douglas, Sasha Sommers, & Miss Carige will be perfrorming that evening! Sounds like a great show!

* The Jungle is the oldest gay bar in Nashville, serving us since 1951! Jungle Jim will hold an Anniversary Party on Tuesday, September 10th!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, August 22nd:
INTERACT: A Gay Man’s Social Discussion Group. Meets at the Center 703 Berry Road. This week’s topic is “Gay’ Relationships”. Call 254-3806 for details.

Saturday, August 24th:
East Nashville Holly Street Festival! Val Reynolds performing!

Tuesday, August 27th:
"Women in Integrity" An Open Forum sponsored by Integrity of Middle Tennessee 6:30pm at St. Anns’ Episcopal Church, 419 Woodland St. Nashville. Potluck dinner to follow. Call (615) 383-4512.

Thursday, August 29th:
Thursday, Music City Rollers II. Bowl one game, get one free! Fall league sign-up for Thursday night bowling at Donelson Plaza Lanes 6:30pm. Call 336-390-2181.

Saturday, August 24th:
Funway...That Way! Theatre Company presents...Het Side Story 8pm at Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga 3224 Navajo Drive. For details call (423) 267-2965.

Sunday, August 25th:
Sunday, Music City Rollers. Organizational Meeting 1pm at Cumberland Lanes, followed by a free bowling party. The Sunday afternoon bowling season begins on September 8th at 1pm also at Cumberland Lanes on Apache Trail.

September 6th - 8th
TENNESSEE GAY CAMP at Fall Creek Falls Call 615-372-8073 or write to: MTGALA Box 101, Cookeville, Tn. 38503-0101

September 16-22nd
3rd Annual ARTLAND ’96. A Celebration of Queer Arts & Artists. Painters, writers, musicians, poets, actors, dancers, sculptors, lovers of the arts will join together for a spectacular week of camping out and camping it up. Fabulous food, performances, workshops, creativity and group projects. Space is limited, call IDA at (615) 597-4409 for details.

September 13
Vintner’s Wine Tasting & Auction To benefit the Comprehensive Care Center. To be held at the Vanderbilt University Club.

September 20-22
CAMP SHALOM Weekend retreat in rustic surroundings designed to provide recreation, rest & renewal to anyone affected or infected by HIV/AIDS. Please call Rev. Terry Carty at (615) 327-1533

October 11 - 13
The Entire NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt show in Washington, DC.

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SISTER SAGE’S ASTROLOGICAL READINGS

Aries March 21st - April 20th
A dream has been on your mind this week. This might be worth
thinking long and hard about. A loved one calls and you must decide
if you want to get involved. Giving more of yourself usually has rewards.
This could include your time and talents. Many of your friends admire
your rational approach to their problems. They appreciate all the nice
things you do, so keep up the good work. You will have good luck.

Taurus April 21st - May 20th
If you scatter your affections, it will drive you crazy. It will be hard
for you to remember what name to call them in the heat of passion.
Family members deserve tolerance and forgiveness when they get on
your last nerve. A friendship will deepen into romance this week so be
ready if you want it to move in that direction. Financial circumstances
take a turn for the better and you will have extra money by weeks end.

Gemini May 21st - June 20th
This week someone will make good on a promise they made a long
time ago. Stay at home more often and let friends come by and visit you
for a change. If you start a new job it will not be what you are expecting
but it will still be worth it in the long run. Change is always good
after you make the adjustment. One thing you can work on is how to
temper your demands with understanding and kindness.

Cancer June 21st - July 22nd
Go ahead and tell your lover everything you think and feel. This
week they will be more receptive to criticism - now is your chance to
really make a difference and let it all hang out. Your family and friends
provide unconditional love and support. A trusted friend treasures your
advice on romance and you have a good chance to fall in love again.

Leo July 23rd - August 22nd
Complications in the romance department could lead to a love trian-
gle. If you plan to travel it could open doors to advancement and your
co-worker seeks your opinion this week. Keep your life simpler by not
acting on impulse. Make plans to enjoy your birthday and plan some-
thing really special that you love to do. Encourage a needy friend to get
the counseling they need. You will both be glad they did.

Virgo August 23rd - September 22nd
When you put a group of friends together at a party, some of them
often put a strain on the social gathering by setting an uppity tone - you
however, will counteract with your flawless, down-to-earth style. You are
getting through an exceptionally artistic stage at this time. Impatience in business leads to unwise decisions. Make plans to
attend a workshop or go to cooking school to improve yourself.

Libra September 23rd - October 22nd
A love affair will become even more passionate this week. A per-
son in uniform will have a profound effect on your life. A romantic
prospect calls on you but you show prudence and wait before you rush
into anything. It would be a good idea to heed the advice of a sibling.
It is in your power to ease a relative’s financial burden. The times they
are a-changing and what comes around goes around, so be careful.

Scorpio October 23rd - November 21st
Stake a claim on your new partner before someone else comes along
and sweeps them off their feet. Communication with your past lover
helps to ease the pain of separation. Be careful not to go on the
rebound. The new love that seems so elusive is right around the corner.
The heat is on to hold for as long as possible before signing a contract. It would be a good time to visit the farmers market for fresh produce.

Sagittarius November 22nd - Dec. 21st
Your partner will surprise you with a gift that will reveal the depth of
their affection. Try harder to accept your lover’s eccentricities. An
employer welcomes your input and ideas. You find you can express
yourself better in writing. Someone at work will ask you to cover for
them and you will do so with good grace and help them save face. Take
someone you love some flowers this week, it will make their day.

Capricorn December 22nd - January 19th
Love and affection flows from you like never before during this week.
You will have a chance to serve as the catalyst for bringing people togeth-
er. You can draw on inspiration from your friends’ successes as you play
matchmaker. Explain your feelings to your lover - don’t just react and
expect them to guess what is on your mind. This is a good time to plan
some fun in the sun before the end of the summer.

Aquarius January 20th - February 18th
If you get to the heart of your financial trouble, you will put an end
to it forever. Keep climbing and the summit will be closer than you ever
dreamed. Clear vision of what you want in a relationship helps to keep
it together. Always explore your options thoroughly and look around
before you make the final decision. A family outing could help you
with your career by making you feel refreshed and revived.

Pisces February 19th - March 20th
Avoid making a business deal this week before you have a chance to talk it over
with your partner. Everyone is receptive to your style of affection so be generous
with the hugs and kisses. You will have the chance to travel to receive an honor or
award. Minor considerations make you put a hold on an important project.
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Log Cabin Withholds Endorsement of Dole-Kemp at the Republican Convention in San Diego last week.

When the Arizona Republican Party embraced Rep. Jim Kolbe after he revealed that he is gay, gay Republicans felt they had finally staked out a high-profile presence in the party.

Now, a 63-year-old Phoenix Republican is testing the GOP's overtures of tolerance at the party's national convention.

John Barr, 63, belongs to the Log Cabin Republicans, a group of 10,000 gay party members, and he's an official guest of the Arizona GOP, which may be the straightest of straight political organizations.

His Log Cabin membership may be a news flash to many in the 39-member Arizona contingent.

"I don't know if the delegates are aware I'm with Log Cabin," he said. "I haven't walked up to anybody and said, 'I'm gay.' That's not the issue. I'm a Republican, and I want to work with the party."

Kolbe announced his homosexuality after he learned that The Advocate, a national gay magazine, was planning to "out" him - report that he was a homosexual - in a forthcoming issue.

"We're not all the way there, but, good God, compared to Houston ... ," Barr said, referring to the GOP's 1992 national convention, when homosexuals were bashed openly.

Rev. Dr. Mel White

Rev. Dr. Mel White distributed copies of "The Rhetoric of Intolerance: An Open-Letter Video to Pat Robertson from Dr. Mel White" to delegates and media in San Diego during the time of the GOP convention. It's part of White's efforts to dialogue with Robertson regarding the dangers of his false and inflammatory anti-gay rhetoric on The 700 Club. The extraordinary 30-minute video comes with a viewers guide which outlines White's 4-year effort to contact Robertson. Last year, White - who used to work for Robertson as a ghostwriter - was arrested for trespassing on the grounds of the Christian Broadcasting Network in Virginia Beach when he attempted to see Robertson. He remained in jail fasting for over three weeks, until Robertson paid him a brief visit. But no discussions took place and nothing changed. According to White: "Since he has refused to discuss these matters with us in a private or in a public forum, we are releasing this open-letter video hoping that it will lead at last to a face-to-face discussion with Mr. Robertson and among all people who are concerned about the growing spirit of intolerance." Robertson was a VA delegate from the 2nd district to the convention.
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