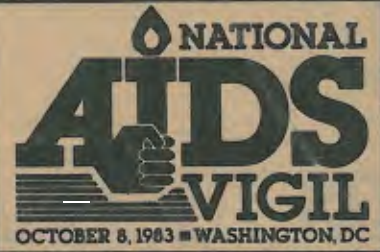


NEW DIRECTION

Living Gay In Central Florida

Marcher's will bring message to capitol



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September 1983

Pre-AIDS waiting game leaves man scared, alone



Wes Hart waits and wonders

Calvin Wesley Hart is hoping to fail what maybe the most important test of his life. He is a member of the growing group of central Florida men and some women who are unofficially described as "pre-AIDS". Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has been identified in more than 2,000 persons in the United States. Mortality among AIDS patients which including many Gay men is nearing 50 percent. It appears many more people are being diagnosed as "pre-AIDS", that is, showing many AIDS symptoms without the presence of two major killers; Pneumocystis carinii, a virulent pneumonia, and Kaposi's Sarcoma, a skin cancer. Possibly-conclusive tests for Kaposi Sarcoma, were conducted on Hart two hours before this interview took place. He talked with New Direction Managing Editor Jay Wesley.

BY JAY WESLEY

New Direction Managing Editor

It was easy to find "Wes" Hart's hospital room. Two bright orange trash bags marked the entrance. The orange bags are used with patients under strict isolation restrictions. AIDS patients and those in the twilight zone of "pre-AIDS" get orange bags.

On the day of this interview, Sept. 3, doctors removed two pieces of skin from Hart's back for biopsy to determine the nature of the ailment robbing Hart of his strength. The circumstances around the affliction, Hart claims, have already stolen his employment, his place to live, most of his furniture and possessions, and, apparently, almost all of his friends.

Hart's back bore a number of painful-looking open sores. His face and arms were dotted with purplish spots, most the size of a quarter. Already a slender figure, Hart said that he had lost about 10 pounds over the last several months. He suffers from diarrhea.

"When I went to the VD clinic Monday (Aug. 30) I saw my file folder. Stamped across it in big red letters were the words 'High risk-AIDS' ". Hart remembered. "As soon as I came into the building, they put me in a separate room. Two doctors looked at me and left. The next thing I know this girl tells me that I had to go to the hospital (Orlando Regional Medical Center) now . . . right away. I had \$6 to my name. That's all the money I had anyhow."

Since then, Hart has been waiting for someone to tell him the nature of his illness. "About 30 doctors have looked at me so far . . . I feel like a Guinea pig," Hart said.

Hart, 37, came to Orlando in February, 1982 from Mansfield, Ohio. He has worked locally as a cook, a skill he developed while traveling in the carnival business. He assisted in the opening of Southern Changes (later Southern Nights), running the food trailer and later worked in food service at Epcot. For five months prior to August 18, he was a night cook at Grandma's Cafe in Orlando's Parliament House resort.

If the doctors aren't telling Hart about the nature of his illness, medical workers attending his needs seem to know, Hart claims. "I had this one male nurse come into the room and say 'how does it feel to be diagnosed as having AIDS?' " Another nurse, apparently apologizing for the special isolation procedures told Hart, "We have to be careful until we know how *this spreads*."

Hart admits that his sexual activity during the past 15 months was similar to the pattern experienced by many of the 2,000 persons officially diagnosed with AIDS. "I was very promiscuous. At the end of last year, I was probably having a couple of hundred (sexual) contacts a month."

"Lots of nights I'd go to the backroom (of a local Gay bar). I might do five or six guys and get screwed two or three times. One night at the baths, I laid on my bed and got screwed 17 times. I never even looked at who it was." Hart said that he usually played a passive role in most sexual encounters.

"I used a lot of poppers. Most of the time, I get bombed (intoxicated), grab a bottle of poppers and head for the baths. There's probably only two or three (sexual partners) that I can name," Hart said.

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Holiday food fit for Queen
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GCS Oktoberfest set for Orlando

BY JAY WESLEY

New Direction Managing Editor

There will be beer, kraut, polkas, and plenty of good times at the first Oktoberfest sponsored by Gay Community Services of Central Florida, Inc. (GCS) Oct. 8 set at Orlando's Turkey Lake Park, the picnic gets underway at 11 p.m. and will be centered around Pavilion 3 in the 300-acre park.

Turkey Lake Park, located off Hiwassee Road in west Orlando, was the site for the successful June celebration of Gay Pride Week. Admission to the park is \$1 per person. There is no charge to attend the picnic, organizers say.

GCS will be serving beer in exchange for donations made to the non-profit group. Tickets will be used as "currency" during the picnic. Beer taps will open at 12:30 p.m. Sauerkraut and wurst will be available as well as other snack foods and soft drinks.

Picnikers may bring their own food. There are many tables adjacent to the pavilion for large groups of friends. An outdoor music system will provide a mix of listening and dancing music. Volleyball equipment will be available and there is plenty of room for frisbee and other games.

"Oktoberfest is a direct result of the response to the Gay Pride picnic's positive nature," claims Jim Welch, GCS president. "Lots of people told us they wanted more gatherings . . . a chance to really feel like a community. We may be able to host three to four events like this a year if we see continued support."

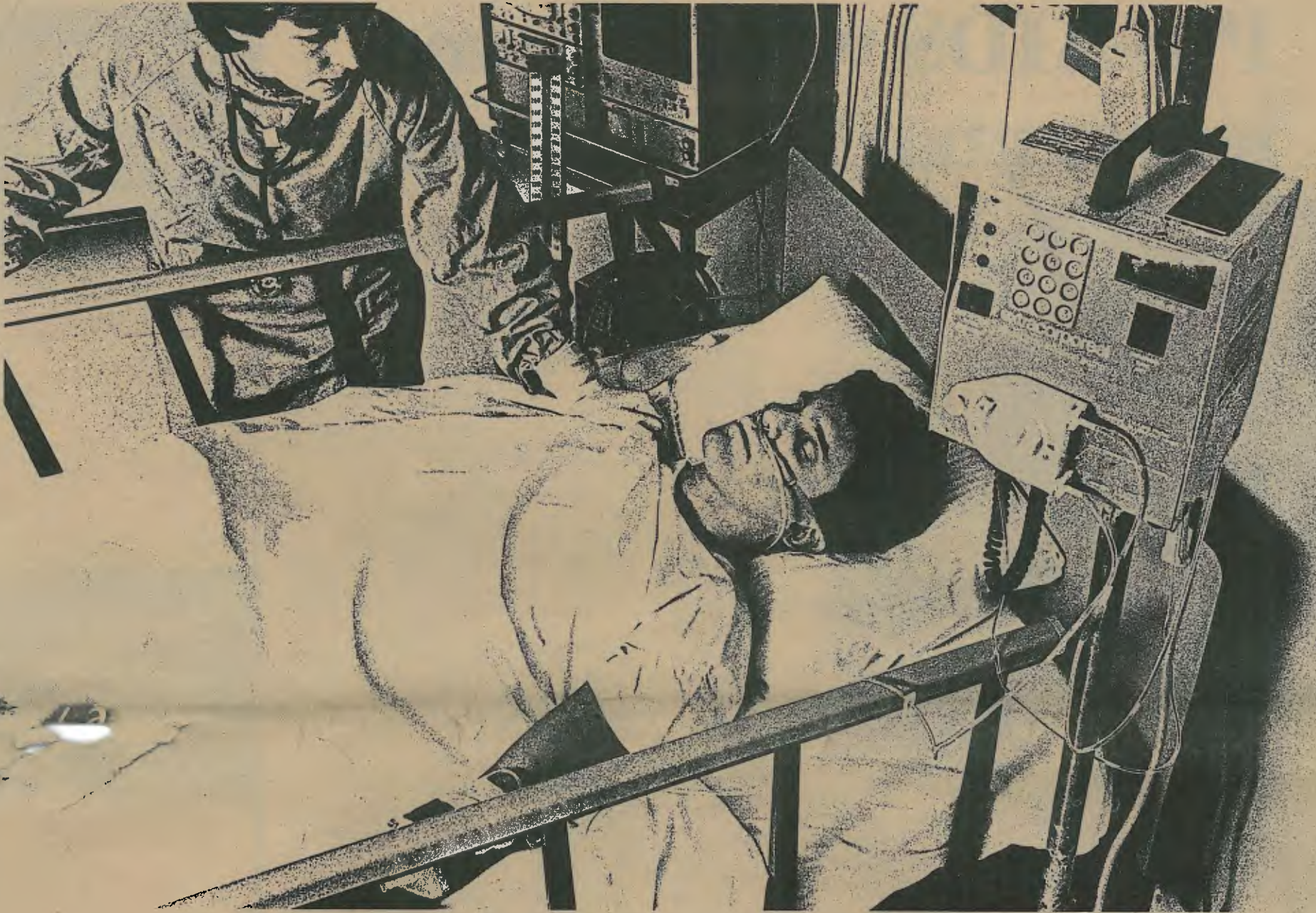
"We're working real hard to make sure problems from the first picnic are resolved . . . especially in food and beverage service. We want to have a no-waiting policy this time," Welch continued.

Several special contests are being planned for the picnic by GO Sports (Gay Organized Sports) the recreation group within GCS. In keeping with the European theme of Oktoberfest, a "stein-toss" or stone throw will test the strength of both male and female stalwarts. Contestants will be asked to toss a large rock as far as possible. Another contest will award prizes to the man and woman bringing the most unusual beer stein to the picnic.



A Lulu of a luau - Pg. 6

HE TOOK THE CHANCE OF GETTING HEPATITIS B— AND LOST.



NOW THE CONSEQUENCES ARE JUST BEGINNING. CHRONIC ACTIVE HEPATITIS, CIRRHOSIS ... OR DEATH.

You undoubtedly know someone who's had it. The "bad hepatitis" that can keep you in bed for weeks and out of a job for months—that can cause lifelong disability and even death from cirrhosis or cancer of the liver. Where do you get it? From people who have become carriers of the virus. Today, it is estimated that at least 100,000 gay men are carriers of the hepatitis B virus and spread the infection through intimate contact. That's the main reason

why more than half of all gay men will sooner or later become infected.

How can you tell who's a carrier? You probably can't. Most carriers seem to be perfectly healthy, and many are themselves unaware that they harbor the virus.

Once you get hepatitis B, there's no specific treatment for it. But now there's something you can do to help protect yourself.

DON'T TAKE A CHANCE— CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR OR CLINIC AND ASK ABOUT THE HEPATITIS B VACCINE.

It is highly effective in those who receive all three shots. Do it today because you never know where or when you'll make contact with a carrier.

If you'd like more information about hepatitis B and the vaccine, call The American Liver Foundation at (201) 857-2626.

**This message is brought to you as a public service by
The American Liver Foundation.**

Studies showed that the vaccine protected against infection caused by hepatitis B virus in 85% to 96% of those who received the required three shots.

Hepatitis B virus is an important cause of viral hepatitis, a disease mainly of the liver. Even mild forms of this disease may lead to serious complications and aftereffects, including liver cancer. There is no specific treatment for viral hepatitis.

Vaccination is recommended for persons who have a higher risk of becoming infected with hepatitis B virus because of frequent, close contact with infected people or exposure to body fluids from such people. It will not protect against hepatitis caused by viruses other than hepatitis B virus.

Because of the long incubation period for hepatitis B, it is possible for unrecognized infection to be present at the time the vaccine is given. The vaccine may not prevent hepatitis B in such patients.

In three studies involving 3,350 persons, the overall rate of adverse reactions did not differ significantly in those given vaccine and those given placebo (an inactive substance). As with any vaccine, broad use often reveals rare adverse reactions not observed during clinical trials.

Over 200,000 people are estimated to have received the vaccine since its release, and the vaccine continues to be generally well tolerated. Hepatitis B has a long incubation period, and unrecognized infection may already be present at the time the vaccine is given. Thus, reported cases of hepatitis are to be expected and do not appear to be caused by the vaccine. Reactions such as fever, nausea, vomiting, headache, and local pain have occurred. Joint pain has been reported; rash has been reported rarely. Serious illnesses affecting the nervous system—including Guillain-Barré syndrome—have been reported rarely, but no cause and effect relationship has been established.

Spotlight on

Gay Central Florida



Photo by Jay Wesley.

'Rap Line' brings help to concerned callers

BY JAY WESLEY

New Direction Managing Editor

Many of the calls are the same. . . "I think I'm Gay . . . is there anyone else in this area that is?" The response is positive and friendly, the result of careful training provided to the peer counselors of the Gay Community Services "rapline," operating in Orlando. The telephone number, (305) 843-4297 (it spells THE-GAYS) is operational 24 hours a day.

Several thousand calls have been logged by rapline volunteers since the service began more than four years ago. The GCS counselors are on duty from 8 p.m. until midnight each day. During other hours, the number is answered by a professional answering service under contract to GCS.

When counselors are not available, answering service operators take names and numbers from callers wanting return contact. Counselors coming on duty receive the messages each day and make return contact. Most contacts are completed with a 24-hour period.

Emergency situations provoke an immediate response from GCS volunteers, with callers being "patched" directly from the answering service's switchboard to the counselor on duty. Several GCS volunteers having professional counseling skills or medical specialties make themselves available for emergency call-taking 24 hours-a-day.

Dr. Charles Hogan, a Orlando psychologist, serves as advisor to the rapline counseling program. He assists in training sessions for GCS volunteers, training the calls "intensive".

"We do a lot of role playing . . . putting the prospective counselors into situations they'll face on the line," Hogan said. "Often time we have to teach them new listening skills so they really hear what is being said by the caller. We also teach them to listen for what is not being said. This often gives us a clue to the mental state of the caller."

Hogan said many calls in recent months have concerned information on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), especially callers wanting to know the symptom of AIDS and the name of local medical professionals sympathetic in treating Gay and Lesbian patients.

Peer counselors maintain referral books which offer a variety of assistance agencies. Using the manuals, they are able to field questions about housing, religious opportunities employment, cultural events, and social happenings. Lists of state and federal help agencies are also on file. Incidents of unusual police activity are also noted by the counselors.

Rapline rules strictly forbid counselors from meeting callers face-to-face. Counselors are instructed not to use judgemental terms when answering questions as to the operation and appeal of taverns and clubs serving Gays and Lesbians in the greater Orlando area.

Costs of the GCS service average about \$150 a month including the telephone hook-up, answering service, and advertising (Yellow Pages). Gay Community Services funds the project through revenues from *New Direction*, membership dues, and fund-raising events.

Training sessions for counselors are held twice a year. The 10 to 12 meetings for prospective counselors usually result in 70 percent of those people starting the classes reaching the conclusion of the course. Approximately 20 persons are currently serving on the rapline. Most volunteers have line answering responsibility one to three evenings each month. Scheduling is done a month in advance by a volunteer coordinator.

Persons wanting to volunteer for counseling should contact the rapline 843-4297 to register for the next training session.

Harvest Ball plans include buffet, music

It will be a night to remember . . . the first Harvest Ball for the central Florida Gay community set Monday, Nov. 14. The formal reception and dance will be at the Palace Club, 3400 South Orange Blossom Trail with starting time at 8 p.m.

A orchestra will provide music for the dancing following the elegant buffet, according to party planners. An open bar featuring popular call brand liquors will provide party-goers with plenty of good spirits. Light beer will also be on tap. The entire cost for the party is \$25 per person. Planners say tuxedos and formal gowns are in order for the evening.

The Palace is a popular after-hours club that features a large dance floor and stage. It has been rented by The Committee and will be redecorated to reflect the theme of The Harvest Ball, a spokesman said. Only 250 tickets will be available for the reception and dance and will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Tickets are expected to be on sale in several locations in Orlando. To prevent unnecessary bookkeeping expenses only cash and money orders will be accepted for ticket orders, a planner said.

Arrangements are being made with tuxedo rental businesses for discounting the cost of formal wear. Ticket purchasers will receive information on these benefits. Complete details for purchasing tickets will be in the October *New Direction*.

Women ruggers find sporting life appeals

BY JAY WESLEY

New Direction Managing Editor

There may be a new twist to the adage "It takes balls to play rugby." Witness the Orlando Women's Rugby Team which began practicing early this month for their 1983-84 season. This is one group of sportswomen who really get their kicks . . . tackles . . . and bumps and bruises.

Club Rugby, according to spokeswoman Claire Sup, is a sport that demands good conditioning combined with a knack for passing, kicking, and tackling on the run. The centuries-old game, a forerunner to American-style football is played around the world. Until recent years, rugby was a traditionally male sport, marked by extreme roughness and rowdy parties after the game. "We still party hard after games," Sup said, "but our game is built on finesse and skill instead of roughness."

Sup said that any women 18 years or older is welcome to come out for the Orlando squad. Some 15 players make up a playing team, playing an average of 30-40 minute non-stop halves. Practices are held weekly at Orlando playing sites, usually beginning at 6:20 p.m. Most games are played on weekends. Some away travel is necessary, Sup said.



RUNNING RUGGER-Stamina and sportsmanship are the key to enjoying women's rugby. (NDPic/Wesley)

Players are required to buy their own team jersey and must play in cleated, all-purpose turf shoes. A \$30 player fee is also assessed, which aids in the cost of rugby balls, some travel expenses and other team costs. Every team member receives a distinctive tee-shirt as part of the fee. Donations, such as \$60 recently given by Gay Community Services of Central Florida, are also accepted.

The women's season runs through May, 1984 and will contain 10 to 12 games. An annual Mardi Gras tournament in New Orleans is a highpoint to the season, according to veteran team members. Games in other Florida cities and Alabama are planned.

Women wanting more information on rugby, including practice dates and times should contact Sup at (305) 275-0042.



TEAM DRILLS-Members of the Orlando Women's Rugby Team listen while a player-coach offers instruction into the fine art of rugby. Shorts, cleated shoes, and a team shirt added to a desire to play are the only requirements for the rough and tumble game. (NDPic by Jay Wesley)

Pre-AIDS toll beginning to mount

PRE-AIDS, AN UNOFFICIAL MEDICAL TERM being used to blanket the growing number of homosexual men experiencing a combination of debilitating medical problems, reared its ugly head twice this month. One incident is reported widely on other pages of this publication. The other is not reported at all.

Calvin Wesley Hart chose to tell his story because he had nothing more to lose. His car, living quarters, possessions and employment are all gone. At press time, results of a battery of AIDS tests still inconclusive, Hart said he believed he may be able to offer something in the way of insight into the mental state of a Gay man facing the spectre of AIDS. That insight may prove to be a valuable gift.

Another caller to Gay Community Services also expressed concern about irregularity in his T-indicator cells, the blood building block often used to identify immune system deficiencies. He claimed both he and his lover were experiencing health problems related to a lower resistance to infection.

The caller, a native of Orlando and "of one of the old families in this area" said illness forced him to lose many clients of his lawn-maintenance business during the last few months. His lover, the man said, lost his job when his employer reportedly received a call from a local health department worker who mentioned the possibility of an incidence of AIDS. The caller asked for "about \$300" to help them put food back into the house and to pay their weekly rent.

The caller, however, would not reveal one thing . . . his name. He claimed possible embarrassment resulting to his family if he was discovered as being homosexual and a possible AIDS candidate would be just too much to bear.

The GCS officer taking the call, acting in a responsible manner, told the man

his request would go unfulfilled without a name that would allow authentication of the claims. Angered at this response, the caller ended his conversation, but not before he accused Gay Community Services of being insensitive to the needs of Gay citizens.

Enfeebled in membership and treasury alike, GCS has tried to respond to the needs of the growing and more visible Gay community in central Florida. It is true, most of the group's efforts appear to be aimed at building bridges of understanding between our unique Gay community and the community at large. These spans like all bridges crossing wide gulfs must be carefully tuned to withstand winds of change or descention blowing from many quarters.

IT APPEARS THAT AIDS AND ITS UGLY STEPCHILD PRE-AIDS, will offer another challenge to GCS. Providing help, comfort, and financial support to Gay men and women experiencing health difficulty may become its biggest and most costly job to date.

Gay Community Services' Oktoberfest Oct. 8, at Orlando's Turkey Lake Park, has been earmarked by the group as a membership builder. While picnikers will be urged to frolic, they will also be asked to consider membership in GCS. Several membership categories are available priced within the reach of almost every person. GCS membership is open to all men and women in the Gay community, their parents, and friends.

While the fate of the un-named caller will perhaps remain a secret, the growing need for a stronger Gay Community Services will not. AIDS and pre-AIDS will be with us throughout our life times. The toll in needed human services for Gay citizens is sure to grow. Your membership and active participation in GCS will help to pay the bill of kindness for our fellow man.

Editor's Notebook

Oktoberfest, AIDS Vigil both important dates

BY JAY WESLEY
New Direction Managing Editor

OCTOBER 8 IS SHAPING UP TO BE A VERY IMPORTANT DAY for Gay and Lesbian citizens, both on a local and national level. It will be a day for fun and frolic ending with an evening for a serious reflection.

Gay Community Services (GCS) has selected that second Saturday in October for its first **Oktoberfest**, a day-long picnic set at Orlando's **Turkey Lake Park** recreation area. It is the same park that hosted the highly successful 1983 Gay Pride picnic. The 300-acre facility is off Hiawasse Road in west Orlando.

Plans call for a great day filled with music and fun. Beer and specialty foods will be available for a donation to GCS. Picnikers may also bring their own food, although park rules prohibit persons bringing alcohol or drugs onto the property. Park admission is one dollar.

A contest will be held for the most unusual beer stein at the picnic. Several European-style games are planned including a "stone-toss" volleyball equipment will be available. Complete details of the Oktoberfest can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Based on reaction from the Gay Pride picnic, there seems to be a real desire for more large-scale social events outside of the traditional bar scene. *NEW DIRECTION* is very pleased at the development of these outings, both from GCS and other groups. They should continue to grow in popularity.



THE FOCUS OF GAY AMERICA WILL SHIFT to a serious side as evening falls Oct. 8, also the date for the planned **National AIDS Vigil** in Washington, D.C. A large crowd is expected in the nation's capitol for a mass demonstration to draw attention to the syndrome (group of diseases) that has struck over 2,000 U.S. citizens since its medical discovery just over three years ago. More than 700 AIDS patients have died. Recovery from the diseases is rare.

Vigil organizers have listed seven points as the purpose of their march:

- to remember those who have died from AIDS and to support those who are fighting for their lives;
- to recognize the struggle of persons with AIDS in fighting against all forms of discrimination based on their health status;
- to increase awareness about AIDS in the public and private sectors;
- to demonstrate to Congress and the President the deep national concern about this health crisis;
- to urge the creation of an independent federal advisory commission on AIDS to oversee research and funding;
- to demand increased federal funding for AIDS-related research and health care; and
- to press for a comprehensive patient's bill of rights and a federal statement on patient confidentiality

Local organizers are considering a symbolic event in Orlando to show support of the national vigil. Details of that happening were not off the drawing board at press time.

Whatever plans develop, it appears the combination of the first Oktoberfest and the vigil should make it a very special Saturday. You and your friends should plan to attend.



WHILE MUCH OF THE GAY COMMUNITY'S ATTENTION has been centered toward AIDS and its growing impact on the social fiber that binds us together, the trauma of another sexually-transmitted disease, genital herpes (Herpes Simplex Virus II) is being eased by a recently formed support group. **Central Florida HELP** offers specialized workshops, counseling, and group therapy for the herpes patient along with lovers or spouses.

Geri Parsons, a licensed psychotherapist is working with the **Women's Health Center of Orlando** to conduct the twice-a-month meetings, aimed at reducing the impact of the

GCS agenda targets picnic

Gay Community Services of Central Florida has scheduled its monthly membership meeting Sept. 18 beginning at 4:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the **Parliament House Resort's Playhouse Theatre**.

Included on the agenda will be discussion of the upcoming Oktoberfest set for Orlando's Turkey Lake Park Oct. 8. Membership drive plans will also be discussed.

GCS meetings are open to all interested parties.

disease on a person's social life. Ms. Parsons has firsthand knowledge of the disease.

A special showing of "**Jennifer**," the film story of a woman discovering and dealing with herpes is scheduled Sept. 29, at the Dade Federal Savings and Loan meeting room, East Colonial Drive at Bumby Street. The session begins at 7:30 p.m. and is open to persons wanting more information about the local work of Central Florida HELP.

Interested persons may call Ms. Parsons at (305) 896-3552 during regular business hours or may contact the Women's Health Center of Orlando at (305) 423-0411. Printed informational materials about herpes are also available from both sources.



YOU CAN GET A DISCOUNT AT A GAY HOTEL, a drink free at the same bars or 1/2 price meals at gay restaurants. A Chicago leather shop offers you a free 5-speed cock ring just for walking into the store and a Kansas discotheque will give you a free T-shirt for the asking.

These and other freebies at gay places all over the country are available in the new edition of *Places of Interest*, the gay guide with maps to the U.S. and Canada. The offers appear on coupons you can tear out of a special section at the back of the book.

Places of Interest is available for \$8 at many gay locations throughout the U.S. and Canada and by mail from the publisher for \$9 postpaid. Send to: *Places of Interest* Order Dept., P.O. Box 35575, Phoenix, AZ 85069. Tell them you read about it in *New Direction*.

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No. 9

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Newsline and information by calling (305) THE GAYS

We'd Like to Get Something Off Our Chest

Full Moon Party Sept. 22

"A howling good time"
Check out our
Buns Contest

Winner receives free bar tab



Nut and Bolt Party - Sept. 17 "Let's get it together"

Complimentary beer for those who find their match

Tuesday - Skin Night

Bare your bod
and the beer's
half-price

Happy Hours

Monday - Friday
5-9 pm

Saturdays

Beat the Clock
2-3 pm - 25¢ Drinks
3-4 pm - 50¢
4-5 pm - 75¢
5-6 pm - \$1.00
6-7 pm - \$1.25

Wednesday

Dollar Night
all drinks \$1
10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Silver Hammer

Sunday

25 cent draft
2 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Thursday - Submarine Night

Beer prices take a dive

9-10 ... reg. beer	\$1.35
10-11	\$1.25
11-12	\$1.15
12-1 a.m.	\$1.05
1-2	\$.95



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Parliament House hosts 'super wow' luau



*Breezes blew
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 Lackanookie
 was there too.
 Fire dancers jived
 Shamu arrived
 Talking parrots
 seemed so live
 and. . . oh yes
 Windy Grape
 took a dive.*

Parliament House luau pictures by Jay Wesley.



Tampa Fundraiser's campaign draws critics

BY JAY WESLEY
New Direction Managing Editor

TAMPA- The fund-raising activities of a newly-formed political action committee supporting increased Gay rights has drawn fire from recognized national Gay and Lesbian leadership. The National Gay Political Action Committee (GayPAC) is the brainchild of Jack Shepard Jr., a self-described "money broker" based in Tampa. Shepard recently launched a campaign to raise more than \$100,000 for Gay political activities.

Shepard, 44, told *New Direction* GayPAC was founded after his survey of needs for Gay voters to organize to further the campaigns of office-seekers with a strong record of supporting Gay and Lesbian civil rights. Shepard said he is being assisted by Jay Edwards, a New York City advertising man.

News of GayPAC's efforts drew criticism from Virginia Apuzzo, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force headquartered in New York City. "I've never heard of them (GayPAC) and I have never heard of Mr. Shepard. I am concerned that a new effort to raise funds from the Gay community could fragmentize the already difficult job of raising money for political action," she said. Apuzzo claimed she would be contacting NGTF's Washington office to learn more about GayPAC's organizational filing with the Federal Election Commission, a requirement of all political action committees. Apuzzo said she would make direct contact with Shepard in an effort to learn more about his organization.

Jerry Weller of Washington, D.C.'s Gay Rights National Lobby also claimed to have no knowledge of GayPAC. "The Human Rights Campaign Fund is the only organization I know that is raising funds on a national level for supporters of Gay and Lesbian rights. I would be very concerned about any new effort to fund another group with donations," he said.

Shepard, in a telephone interview, said that GayPAC is launching a two-part effort across the country with news releases to the Gay press and some paid advertisements in key publications. One news release asks that persons send a card or letter to GayPAC pledging to "urge at least one Gay person to register and vote in 1984." The release asks that the pledge be sent to GayPAC headquarters along with the sender's name and address. The group

lists its address as Suite 617, 1521 South Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa 33629.

"We want people to go knocking on doors," GayPAC's release urges, "We want to take the work right into the Gay home . . . our volunteers can urge Gays to register and vote, even help them fill out registration forms, while surrounded by their loved ones."

Shepard said he believes most states allow volunteers to assist in voter registration. Shepard said he hopes to receive 1 million pledge cards before January.

A second news release seeks donations for "our own private fleet of Gay voter clinics to give unregistered Gays in our community the incentive and means to get involved." The release claims ". . . with the economy still on the see-saw, the sooner you give, the less the fleet will cost." Target goals for the motor home vehicles is \$103,000. Shepard, according to the release, wants to place orders for the vehicles in November.

Shepard told *New Direction* detailed records of donors are being kept and all money would be returned if the voter vehicle plan fails to raise sufficient funds. He said the money is being deposited in a St. Petersburg bank.

Tampa civil rights activist John Granman, president of the Florida Task Force, told *New Direction* he was also concerned about GayPAC's efforts. He said his conversation with Shepard had led him to believe while GayPAC's goals may be well-founded, the organizer may be "a little naive" about working within the Gay community.



RAP GROUP MEETING PLACE-The We Care, Inc. office building at 112 Pasadena Drive is currently serving as the meeting place for the weekly "rap group" sponsored by Gay Community Services (GCS) of Central Florida. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and are open to all men and women from the Gay community, their parents and friends. Small group discussion usually follows introductions and announcements about events and services of interest to Gay citizens. There is no charge to attend the rap sessions. A free will donation does aid in expenses connected with the use of the We Care facility. Pasadena Drive is located between Magnolia and Highland streets about six blocks north of Colonial Drive in Orlando. (NDPic/Wesley)

Orlando and Surrounding Communities

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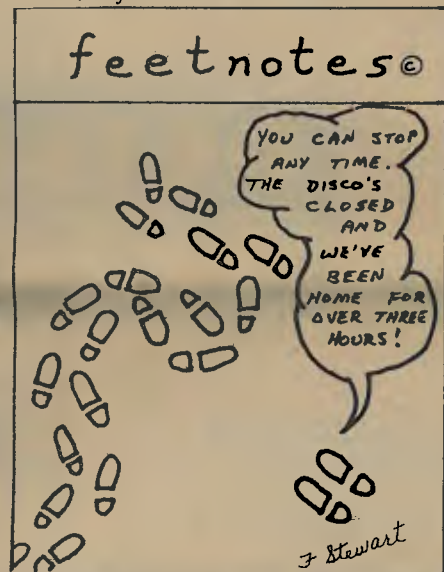
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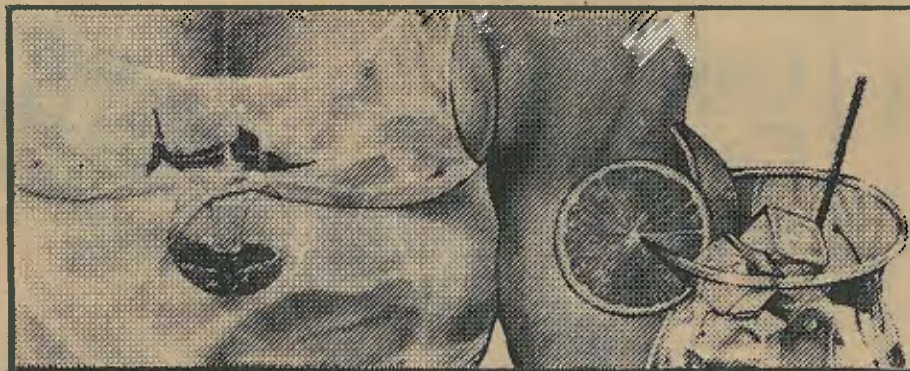


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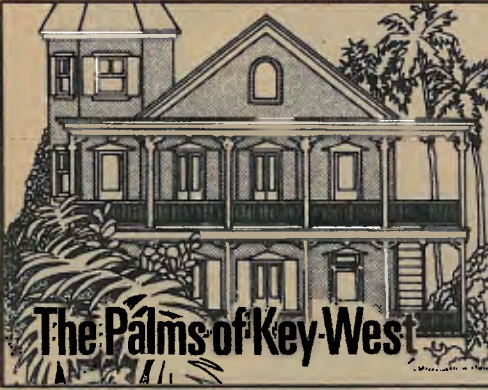
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September music menu has pleasant tone

BY BORIS MYSHCZYSHYN
New Direction Staff Writer

I've been in Orlando for two years and have noticed there are many people who claim to enjoy classical or "serious" music, but never support any of the local performing groups. I believe these people fall into two broad categories.

The first are people who complain about the lack of cultural activities in the area. These are usually the ones who never attend anything anyway! They are often from larger cities where the symphony, ballet, opera, and chamber music performances have been established for 60 years or more. They look at the Florida Symphony Orchestra or Orlando Opera company brochures and sniff, "they call *that* a season?"

These people fail to realize that Orlando is still a young area, culturally, and without support and encouragement, our present institutions cannot grow to quality of the groups in larger cities.

The second group of concert non-goers are the uninformed ones. There are many things to attend and listen to in this area. The biggest trouble is finding out about them. It is my goal to make the readers of New Direction the most well-informed potential audience in the state. I will be giving a monthly preview of live performances and some radio broadcasts, primarily opera programs on Saturdays and Sundays. I will not claim to be giving complete listings of events, but my report will be as comprehensive as I can make it with the information at my disposal.

September relies mostly on radio programs, but there are several live concerts that deserve your attention. October will bring the opening of the Florida Symphony season and a lot of activity at the local colleges.

September

- 9/3. 2:00 P.M. *Esclarmonde* opera by Jules Massenet. WMFE, FM 90.7
- 9/10. 2:00 P.M. *Don Pasquale* opera by Gaetano Donizetti. FM 90.7
- 9/11. 1:00 P.M. *Rigoletto* opera by Giuseppe Verdi. WUCF, FM 89.9
- 9/17. 2:00 P.M. *Falstaff* opera by Giuseppe Verdi. FM 90.7
- 9/18. 3:30 P.M. Faculty String Quartet Concert. Rehearsal Hall, University of Central Florida.
- 7:30 P.M. Dr. Sylvia Reynolds, piano, in recital at St. John's Lutheran Church, Winter Park. Music of Bach, Kuhnau, and Schumann. Free.
- 9/23. 8:00 P.M. Stephen Owens, clarinet, and Roy Pickering, trombone, in recital. The first of the Faculty Artist series at UCF. Rehearsal Hall, University of Central Florida.
- 9/24. 2:00 P.M. *The Marriage of Figaro* opera by W.A. Mozart. FM 90.7
- 9/25. 1:00 P.M. *Tosca* opera by Giacomo Puccini. FM 89.9
- 2:00 P.M. "American Musical Theatre" Frank Carroll, baritone; Dale Morehouse, piano. Atrium, Building 3. East Campus, Valencia Community College. 701 N. Econlockhatchee Trail. Admission - \$2.



RITZY — Performers of Southern Nights' Labor Day weekend production of "Putting On the Ritz" gathered for this group picture. (NDPic by Jay Wesley)

ON THE ROAD

Knoxville knocked

BY FRANK STEINER
New Direction Staff Writer

For those of you contemplating a bit of travel through the eastern U.S., I would like to suggest that you make a stop in Knoxville, Tennessee. While visiting the area I had a chance to go to two of the several bars.

Badlands, on Gay Street (honest, its the name of one of the main streets there), is a place to avoid. If I had to rate it on a one to five scale, I would have to give it a .25.

The Badlands is gay owned and operated. It has a large patio. So much for the good things about it. The bar is located in an extremely rough neighborhood and even though I am originally from the area, I hesitated to leave my car in the parking lot despite a security guard.

The bar is supposed to be a levi/leather bar and out of about twelve people that showed up over a two hour period, there was one couple who wore denim.

The dance floor was about six feet square and the people were very snobbish until they found out, near the end of my visit, that I would be writing a review. It seemed everyone became very friendly.

The bar has a bad layout and appears run down. It is a place where I felt that my time was wasted and I don't plan to return.

I asked the doorman/manager how to get to **The Factory**, also in Knoxville. Instead of directions, he spent ten minutes bad mouthing the other bar until I wasn't sure that I wanted to go. I'm glad that I followed my instincts and went as I found it to be a real pleasure.

The Factory, on 17th Street near the University of Tennessee campus rated a 4.5.

The only thing I rated against The Factory was the attitude of the doorman. It was a cold "give me your money and get in" performance.

Inside, I found a packed house. The dance floor stands about three feet off the floor and the music is extremely well selected and mixed.

The place is very clean and had enough waiters to cover the area. The parking lot seemed extremely large and was constantly patrolled by a security guard.

The Factory should be a *must* when you visit Knoxville!

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National AIDS Vigil has vital goals



Thousands of concerned Gay men and women, their friends and supporters are expected to join Oct. 8 for the National AIDS Vigil in Washington, D.C. Robert Gelanger, Vigil co-ordinator, told *New Direction* that marchers will gather beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the park-like Elipse near the White House.

He said the march will step-off at 6:30 p.m. EST. The contingent will circle the White House before travelling Pennsylvania Ave. to The Capitol. A program will be presented at the Capitol Reflecting Pool and will feature several AIDS patients. Marchers are asked to bring candles. The vigil committee will also have memorial candles on sale, Belanger said.

The vigil's statement of purpose follows:

• **TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED FROM AIDS AND TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO ARE FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES;**

More than 2,000 persons in the United States have contracted Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

AIDS is a condition which manifests itself by a near total collapse of the body's immune system. It leaves the body almost totally undefended against even minor infections and prey to cancers and opportunistic diseases such as Kaposi's sarcoma, pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, candidiasis, and toxoplasma gondii. Each condition was previously rare and almost never seen in young, healthy adults.

Over 700 Americans have now died from AIDS. The rate of increase of new cases, while slowing in New York and San Francisco, continues to double every six months. Four additional persons are diagnosed with AIDS each day. But the real numbers are not reflected in these totals. Hundreds more cases are not reported by private physicians to public health officials because of inaccurate results obtained from difficult testing procedures.

Persons with AIDS are primarily homosexual men, but the list of affected groups has expanded rapidly to include intravenous drug users, Haitians, hemophiliacs, female partners of these groups, and children. 26% of persons with AIDS are black.

People with AIDS face a continuing struggle, not only in terms of their health, but also as a result of isolation and loneliness. Stress and other psychological factors play an important role in a person's ability to recover and fight disease. Support groups have already been formed in those cities greatly affected by the epidemic to help minimize these and other difficulties that persons with AIDS face.

• **TO RECOGNIZE THE STRUGGLE OF PERSONS WITH AIDS IN FIGHTING AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON THEIR HEALTH STATUS;**

• **TO INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT AIDS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS;**

Increased public fear of the AIDS epidemic is resulting in growing discrimination against persons with AIDS and members of high risk groups.

Persons with AIDS have been thrown out of restaurants and bars, refused haircuts by barbers, and interviewed by reports who would not hire them. Incidents of poor health care delivery, job terminations, and housing evictions are becoming increasingly commonplace for persons with AIDS. As persons with AIDS struggle to survive, they now must overcome artificial barriers caused by nonsensical discrimination.

One goal of the National Vigil is to increase the awareness of the general public through the dissemination of accurate, nonsensational information. AIDS cannot be spread through casual contact either with persons with AIDS or with members of high risk groups.

• **TO DEMONSTRATE TO CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT THE DEEP NATIONAL CONCERN ABOUT THIS HEALTH CRISIS;**

A crisis such as that presented by the AIDS epidemic is a threat to the health and

welfare of the United States as a nation. Such a crisis takes its toll, not only in terms of affecting monetary and physical resources, but in terms of our nation's greatest resource: its people.

• **TO URGE THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON AIDS TO OVERSEE RESEARCH AND FUNDING;**

The great proliferation of AIDS projects require Congress or the President to establish a federal advisory commission to oversee AIDS-related research, health care delivery, and funding. Through active participation of researchers, government officials, physicians, community health workers, health consumer advocates, and persons with AIDS, the proposed federal Commission would function as a central clearinghouse to keep all divergent groups and persons working on this crisis clearly informed. Full disclosure of scientific data is critical to avoid unnecessary duplication of funding and research effort and to apprise the general public of all findings in AIDS research.

• **TO DEMAND INCREASED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR AIDS-RELATED RESEARCH AND HEALTH CARE;**

The initial response of the federal government to the AIDS epidemic was agonizingly slow; resulting in the failure to provide sufficient funding when the disease syndrome was first reported. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) finally began to rectify this failure by directing \$14.5 million for AIDS research this year, with an additional \$12 million recently allocated in Congressional supplemental appropriations.

Nevertheless, insufficient funding for critical scientific research continues. Unfortunately, we are no closer today in knowing the cause or cure of AIDS than we were three years ago.

The importance of AIDS research goes beyond the disease syndrome itself. Knowledge gained from this research will give scientists greater understanding of the body's immune system, allowing physicians to treat immunological deficiencies that are unrelated to AIDS. AIDS research may also contribute to the fight against cancer.

• **TO PRESS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PATIENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS AND A FEDERAL STATEMENT ON PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY;**

All people, including persons diagnosed with acquired immune deficiency syndrome, have the inalienable right:

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- to choose or refuse their treatment modalities;
- to choose or refuse to be examined, treated, or observed by students or any other facility staff without jeopardizing access to psychiatric, psychological, or other medical care attention;
- to choose or refuse to serve as a research subject, and to choose or refuse any care or examination when the primary purpose is educational or informational rather than therapeutic;
- to be guaranteed privacy during medical treatment or other rendering of care within the capacity of the health care facility;
- to be assured of the confidentiality of all records and communications within the scope of the physician-patient relationship;
- to receive quality and prompt life-saving treatment in an emergency, other medical treatment, and social service provision without discrimination based on economic status or source of payment, diagnosis, race, creed, sex, or sexual orientation;
- to receive undeterred visitation from their spouses, significant others, and other family members; and
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Dear Fred . . .

Dear Fred,

I have a problem with relating to my father. He just kicked me out of his house because he is afraid of getting AIDS because I am gay. I feel that this is a total misconception. I have tried to talk to him about it but he just will not listen. He has several preconceived ideas about people that are gay, and most of them are just the straight society's way of coping with homosexuality. He has almost totally disowned me. What should I do?

Desperate

Dear Desperate,

Many gays have had a problem communicating with their parents. (This applies many times, all too frequently, in the "straight society" also.) In your case, it is an issue your father does not wish to discuss.

Many times, the parents of gays blame themselves in trying to figure out what went wrong in raising their child and thus will not discuss it. Others feel if they ignore the problem it will go away and their child will become "straight".

If you are 17 or older, I suggest that you get a job and start making plans for your future. If you can find literature on AIDS, and this paper is a very good source, clip the information and send it to your father. Let him read it as he gets the time or feels comfortable enough to read it.

By getting a job and showing responsibility in that you can take care of yourself, it is another way of acceptance for many parents.

It takes a while to accept the fact that one of the members of the family is gay. Bide your time and make your own living. The best of luck to you.

Fred

* * * * *

The above letter is not as rare as you would think. Being out in our community I have met many of our brothers and a few of our sisters that have been thrown out due to the fact that they are gay.

I have taken several of these in on a one at a time basis for short periods of time and only wish that I could do more. I cannot.

I would like to see more people open their doors to help someone out in cases of this nature.

* * * * *

Dear Fred,

I am a male hustler and really don't like it even though the money is good. I'm afraid of getting caught and sent to jail or of getting someone that will kill me or beat me up. I've been doing this for about a year now and don't know what else to do as I am untrained. I am 17 but look like I'm 19. What should I do.

Afraid

Dear Afraid,

There are many drawbacks to being a hustler. Two of you mentioned . . . police and violence. There are also other drawbacks such as venereal disease and other diseases as well as the threat of AIDS.

If you don't like being a hustler, I suggest that you try to get a job maybe as a bagboy or working at a fast food operation.

The money will be far less than you are making now, but you will have your self esteem and will be rid of the dangers of what you are now doing.

The longer you wait, the tougher it will be.

Let me know how things turn out.

Fred

I am a good hit overweight and have been all my life. I also have my age going against me in that I am almost forty. I am a sensitive person and it hurts for others to call me a "troll" behind my back. What can I do about this?

Needs Loving

Dear Needs Loving,

It's true that some of our gay community members turn up their noses and make derogatory remarks about others. (See August issue.) Because a person is heavy does not mean that the person is insensitive nor a loner.

I have a friend who is also very heavy and does spend some time alone. He also has been hurt by the "troll complex." He takes it in stride and by being open with others and just making friends, he has found others to respond with their friendship.

It seems that as they got to know him, they found out that it was what was on the inside that counted and slowly the age and fat did not seem to matter anymore as they knew him as a person.

All too often we look at only physical attributes and don't bother to look any farther. If we did, we would find a warm caring and friendly person.

Work on making friends and try to lose some weight. (I've heard that many times and I'm sure that you have also.)

Fred

Letters to Fred may be sent directly to him at the following address: Dear Fred, P.O. Box 8762, Orlando, Fl. 32806 or may be sent to Dear Fred c/o New Direction, P.O. Box 4355, Winter Park, Fl. 32793. Names and addresses WILL NOT be published in this column unless permission is given in the letter. Those needing immediate answers should include a S.A.S.E. and/or phone number. (Some letters may be edited due to space availability.)

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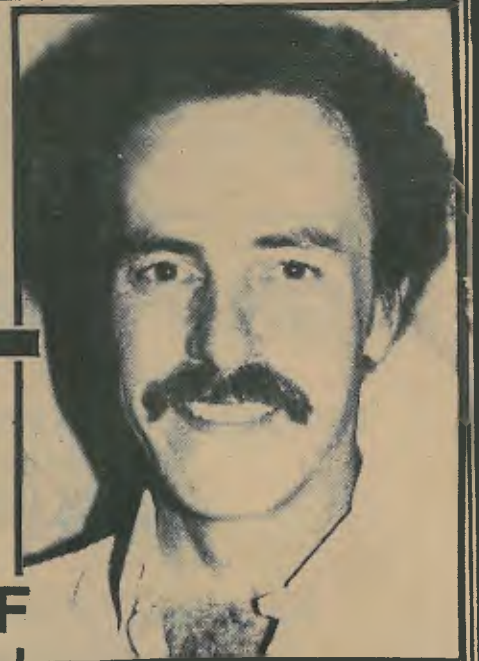
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