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It’s Coming-Out Time

By DAVID B. UNDERHILL

IT IS NOW ACCEPTABLE to be out and proud, allowing gay men to marry, openly and without fear. The Southern Courier, a publication of the Southern United States, was founded in 1973. It is available at the Gay and Lesbian Center in Mobile, Alabama.

The Southern Courier is published weekly by the Southern United States, a regional organization of gay and lesbian activists. It is distributed free of charge to homes and businesses throughout the region.

This issue features articles on the coming-out process, including a story about a young man who came out to his family and was accepted by them.

Editorial Opinion

Flowers Is Right

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The editor's column, "Letters to the Editor," includes a letter from a reader who writes about the importance of coming out.

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The following is a letter from a reader who writes about the importance of coming out.

The letter states, "I realize from my past summer in Chicago that the coming-out process is not easy." The letter goes on to say, "I want to make sure that everyone knows that coming out is a difficult, but necessary, process."

The letter also includes a quote from the Civil Rights Movement, "If, for instance, Miss Mitchell wanted to win a National Award, she would be able to do so."

The letter concludes with a call to action, "We need to push for more opportunities for people to come out and be themselves."
New Year at a Dying Dump

PHOTOGRAPHY AND TEXT BY DAVID R. UNDERHILL

MOBILE -- When the restaurant opens at the top of the new 33-story First National Bank building in Mobile, diners will be able to see the city dump from their tables. If they've come to the restaurant at night, from the opera or the symphony, and have a pair of those little binoculars that many take to performances, they may be able to see people outlined against the flames of burning trash.

These people make their living picking up and sorting out of the garbage and selling it for metal. They work in the dark hours of night and in the bright, early morning, bringing and collecting anything that can be sold.

About 60 people--mostly middle-aged or elderly men and women--live at the dump. They work on the cars and trucks. Perhaps 300 others, including children, come regularly to earn what they can. Most people say they average $3 or $4 a day and can make $10 on a rare lucky day.

"I don't like it. But I'm too old and broken up to do anything else," explained one man who lives at the dump. Nearly all the older people gave similar reasons for being there. They aren't very happy, but they aren't angry either.

The younger ones come because they can't make better money at anything else. A 21-year-old man, who left school in the seventh grade, recently quit a job as a dishwasher in a downtown restaurant. He made $30 for 40 hours of dishwashing a week.

He, and most of the other young people and kids, didn't want their pictures taken, because they don't want anyone to know where they make their money.

The city will soon open a new garbage plant, and the city dump will close. Things like broken furniture, old refrigerators and other large items will still be dumped there, and a few people may be able to make a living off them. But most will be a problem. The people who live at the dump can't afford to move, and they eat what others have thrown away. All this will be going to the new garbage plant.

"They all had lots of practice at that--like the lady sitting between two mountains of broken toys and crumpled Christmas wrappings, as heavy clouds of smoke filled the top of one and smoke filled the top of another. They've had practice at making the best of things ever since Christmas, ain't it?" she said quietly."
Three weeks ago a new voter registration drive started in Birmingham.

**Birmingham: Closed Door or Key to Future?**

**The Alabama Christian Movement still meets Mondays,** every Thursday morning at 9 a.m. in a downtown office. Meetings are open to all workers and members, and others interested in coming together to talk about the problems of the city. The club has about 15 members, and its meetings are usually attended by a small group of people who are active in the movement.

**The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits** certain discrimination. Black leaders have organized to protect their rights. The complaints may be used for a fair hearing, and the examiner will make a determination. If the complaint is not filed within 18 months, it will be dismissed.

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Collins Released, Back in Pa.

MONTGOMERY—Tyrell Collins, a 26-year-old former Detroit man who came to the state to work on a construction project, was released from the Men's Central Jail Monday after federal authorities determined that he was not in the United States illegally.

Ordinarily, Collins, who had been lodged at the jail since April 20, would have been returned to Detroit for deportation proceedings. But authorities conducted a more thorough review of his legal status and determined that he had entered the U.S. legally.

Collins, who was born in Detroit and grew up in Alabama, said he had been living in the state for several years and was employed as a laborer. He said he did not know whether he would be able to continue working in Alabama or whether he would need to return to Detroit to complete his deported status.

"I've been living here for a long time," he said. "I'm just trying to make a living.

Prattville Group Wants Concessions by Jan. 30

PRATTVILLE—The Air Force Civil Engineer Command has not yet agreed to concessions that would allow the Prattville Group to expand its operations in Prattville, Alabama.

The Prattville Group, which operates a distribution center in Prattville, has been seeking concessions from the Air Force Civil Engineer Command to expand its operations in the area. The group has been seeking to expand its operations in the area for over a year, but the Air Force Civil Engineer Command has yet to agree to any concessions.

The group has been seeking to expand its operations in the area to accommodate increasing demand for its services. The group is currently operating at full capacity, and it has been forced to turn away business from time to time.

The Prattville Group has been seeking concessions from the Air Force Civil Engineer Command for over a year, but the command has yet to agree to any concessions. The group has been forced to turn away business from time to time due to the lack of available space.

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TOPS Blue in Rough Game; Negro Stars Integrate Classic

Negroes in U.S. History -- Chapter 9

Tales of the Wild West

by BOLEI and FRANK CRICKBA

MOST PEOPLE TODAY don't know that Negroes played an important part in making the American West. But they did. As early as 1639, a Negro explorer named Estevanico discovered the Pueblos of New Mexico. In the middle of the 1700's, Negro families were among the founders of Los Angeles. Before the Civil War, many Negroes went west to Texas as slaves. After the war, many went west to find a new life.

The West was wide and the land was open. The big problem of the West was to get the cattle to the people in the East who would buy them. That meant much hard work and long drives from Texas to the railheads in the East. The trip took two or three months. Over 1,000 Negro cowboys helped to do this work.

Besides being cowboys, Negroes were used as the trail crews and even calming the cattle. Sometimes he played a helper or a hider.

Negro cowboys not only played a short-term interest, but there was less use in other parts of the country. In the East, poor white workers were afraid that Negroes would get the top jobs. In the West, there were much more than workers, if men could work hard, that was more important than their race. Even as Negroes ever got the top pay.

There were more Negroes in the West than in the South. A white man was usually in charge, but if he was caught, the Negro.Negro's testimony was not accepted in court. At the end of a rope, frontier and city who were caught in a lynch mob, Negro's testimony was not accepted in court.

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