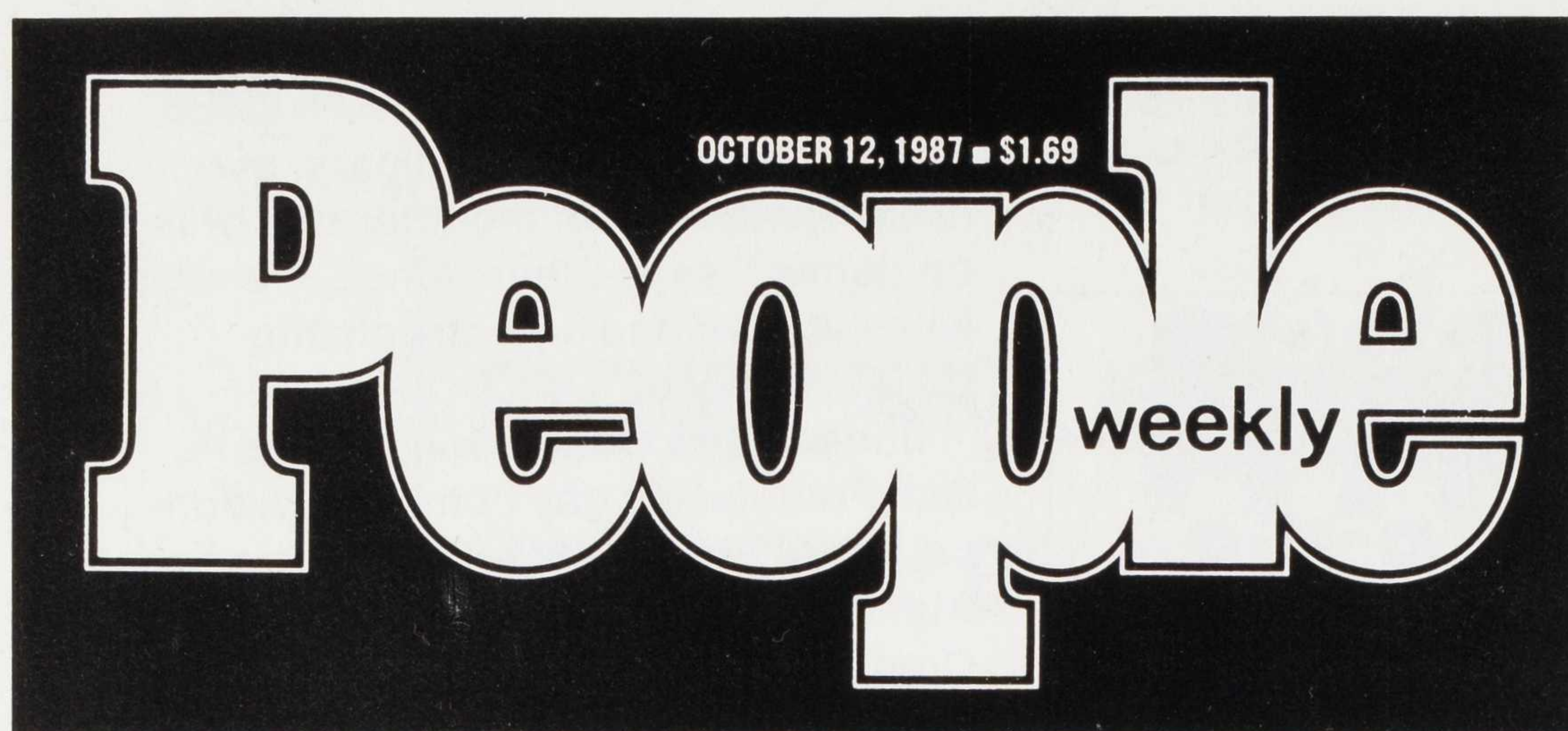




*This article
came out the week
the Quilt was first
displayed in Washington,
last fall.
Cleve Jones*



"I lost my sense of humor," says Cleve Jones of the dark days before he started the NAMES Project. "I lost the sense to fight back."

TAKING UP NEEDLES AND THREAD TO HONOR THE DEAD HELPS AIDS SURVIVORS PATCH UP THEIR LIVES

After dinner one night this summer, five men sat down on a living room floor in Mobile, Ala., to make a quilt. "I think it was the first time any of us had ever sewed, except for a button on a shirt," says Judson Martin, 28, a

woodsman and church pianist who was host at the gathering. Fumbling with scissors, needle and thread, the men—a millworker, a real estate broker, a cashier and a printer—used scavenged scraps of gingham and cali-

co to spell out the name John for a member of their church choir who had died of AIDS. "We tried to do it like an old-fashioned sewing bee," says Martin, who served ice cream and cake and played hymns on the piano. The sewing didn't get much past the tacking stage and had to be finished up later by his mother, he says, "but we hashed some good memories."

When it was done, the Mobile quilt was mailed off to a storefront in San