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Deborah Burks

Minnie Bruce Pratt, lesbian poet and political organizer, is a native Southerner. *Dare's* Deborah Burks caught up with her at the Southern Women's Music Festival. Interview on page 4.

Episcopalians Vote to End PWA Discrimination

By JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Episcopalians meeting in their triennial General Conference in Detroit Tuesday unanimously approved a resolution calling for an end to discrimination against people with AIDS.

Delegates this week will also vote to determine church policy regarding the recognition of "same sex marriages."

The proper limits of Christian sexual conduct, the church's stand in the war on AIDS and the consideration of resolutions addressing the homosexuality issue are among the more heated topics of debate as some 900 lay and clergy deputies and 200 bishops meet to determine the future course of action for the Episcopal Church.

The 900-member House of Deputies Tuesday unanimously approved an anti-discrimination resolution to protect people with AIDS. AIDS was the focus of six other resolutions considered by committees.

"We have to talk about condoms, HIVs," said the Rev. Thaddeus Bennett of Hartford, Conn., co-chair of the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition. "We have to be specific. Then we can evangelize and tell them about

Jesus. If we wait to talk to someone on their deathbed, we have waited too long."

"Prohibiting discrimination in the church on the basis of AIDS, AIDS-related complex (ARC), or HIV infection" was the initial AIDS-related resolution approved. Others include one that would provide \$120,000 over the next three years for the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition, which has as its slogan, "Our Church has AIDS."

Among other resolutions considered:

- Endorsement of the U.S. Surgeon General's report on AIDS and the publication of a similar church report.

- A National Day of Prayer would be set aside for the second Sunday in October.

- Establishment of a 12-member commission on AIDS which would include three bishops, three deacons and six lay members.

- Requirement that each of the church's 7,500 U.S. parishes adopt AIDS education programs by December 1989. Currently, 154 churches nationwide have an AIDS ministry.

Prior to the general conference's start, a report on human sexuality urged Episcopalians "to suspend ancient judgments against

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AIDS and Politics

Sociologist Martin Levine speaks to Nashville CARES

By HARRISON HICKS
Staff Writer

Despite the best efforts of those involved in fighting the AIDS epidemic, politics often detracts from efforts aimed at dealing with AIDS, according to Martin Levine, sociologist and adviser to the President's Commission on AIDS.

Levine, a member of a special committee within the American Sociological Association studying the status of homosexuals, presented his case in a recent lecture at the Nashville CARES office.

"AIDS has never been men in white coats very objectively searching for the magic bullet to curb this disease," Levine said. "Rather, I think it's becoming clear that AIDS is also a political issue, because it's politics that determines the government's response to this disease. It's politics that determines the resources pumped into basic research. It's politics that determines the quality of medical care for persons with HIV infection, ARC or AIDS, and it's politics that determines the direction of public health policies."

Comparing the lack of basic research for sickle cell anemia and lead poisoning to the more heavily-funded "glamorous" research of heart and organ transplants, Levine pointed out to the audience of twenty that medicine itself is often political.

"Eight years after the onset of this epidemic, it's clear that social and cultural factors have shaped the medical response to AIDS, largely by influencing policy formation," Levine declared. "The fact that AIDS has hit homosexuals, intravenous drug users, black and Hispanic IV-drug users in particular, first in the United States has undoubtedly influenced public policy."

In order to understand the political aspects of AIDS, Levine said, one must first understand the "social construction" of AIDS, or the cultural meaning of AIDS.

"This cultural meaning is what really determines the politics of AIDS. The politics of AIDS revolves around how the cultures construe the disease, not really what the actual properties may be," Levine said. "The crucial thing to remember here in the cultural meanings is that this is the disease of 'social junk,' that for America this is a disease that hits a superfluous, morally devalued population - sex-crazed queers, drug-crazed junkies and promiscuous heterosexual sluts. This is how they imagine

the disease and that imagery has played a large role."

In Levine's opinion, Americans have defined AIDS in four different ways, which he labelled as the moralistic, contagion, conspiracy and scientific or medical definitions.

In the first definition, the moralistic, Levine said that people often make moral judgments, believing that the disease is spread by sin and that by extension, those with the disease are sinners.

"In the moralistic construction of the disease the virus doesn't even exist. This construction confuses modes of transmission with causation," Levine stated. As an example, he cited Senator Jesse Helms' assertion that sodomy causes AIDS.

"Unfortunately," Levine noted. "This is an interpretation of the disease that is held by politically powerful segments of American society - the radical right, the Christian fundamentalist community and a group of people who have a great deal of influence on politics."

The second construction of AIDS, Levine said, is what he called the contagion definition, the belief that AIDS is easily transmissible and contagious. Levine noted that many Americans still believe that AIDS can be contracted from drinking from a glass used by a person with AIDS (PWA) or sitting on a toilet seat used by a PWA. To indicate the intense fear of the disease, Levine told of riding on New York City subways during rush hour and witnessing a

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AIDS and Politics

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seat remaining empty the entire time.

On that seat, he said, were written the words, "A person with AIDS sat here."

Not as prevalent today as it once was, Levine said, is the conspiracy definition, the belief that AIDS was a form of CIA germ warfare that got out of control.

The final model, Levine noted, is the scientific or medical model, which deals with the physiological facts about the disease, the means of transmission and so on.

"It would be wonderful if the debate on AIDS was influenced by the medical model, but I think that if you talk to enough doctors and that when you look at the political discourse on AIDS often it's not the medical model or the medical construction that influences it, it's the contagion and moralistic," Levine said.

Levine further asserted that many fundamentalist groups and conservatives have seized upon the AIDS issues as a means to advance their own conservative agendas.

William Dannemeyer, an anti-gay congressman from California who recently came to Nashville to testify before the President's Commission on AIDS, is a case in

point, Levine said, of another conservative using the AIDS crisis to promote his views against homosexuality.

To counter such movements, Levine stated his belief that AIDS activists need to become more politically involved. Citing his involvement in the New York chapter of ACT UP, Levine said that groups need to "take to the streets."

"We need to move beyond being very good about helping our sick and taking care of our dying and recognize that the only way we're going to get this epidemic stopped is to politically pressure the government into doing it," Levine said.

On a personal level, Levine said, he sees the death two years before of his companion, Michael, from AIDS as an intentional act of a government that refused to react to the AIDS epidemic.

"All of these people's lives (HIV-infected, PWAs), in a sense, can be laid on the door of the White House, on a president and a Republican administration who slept through this, (the AIDS crisis) and I think we need now to take that into account, and organize against it," Levine said.

Episcopalians Address AIDS

Continued from page 1

homosexuals" and to let them "tell their stories."

"The report says we should listen with sympathy and without judgment to people who depart from the tradition so we can hear human needs and see if it gives us any insights into what God wants for us," said Bishop George Reynolds of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee.

Written by a clergy and lay committee, the report on human sexuality was expected to conclude with a major resolution on the church's stand on intimate relations outside marriage. A resolution decrying acts of violence directed at lesbians and gay men was expected to be considered by the delegates.

More controversial, however, was the consideration the church's official stand on same sex marriages.

"The commission is not ready to take a position on the blessing of same-sex couples. This question does raise a myriad of other

questions, such as the meaning of marriage, the meaning of blessings, the origin of homosexual orientation, etc.," the report says.

"We do not think that homosexual Episcopalians need or deserve another rejection at this moment. Instead, this moment cries out for us to find a non-judgmental occasion to listen and talk and to lay aside, for a while, our chronic posturing."

The report recognizes marriage "as the standard, the norm, the primary relationship in which the gift of human sexuality is to be shared."

Extra-marital affairs are deemed "immoral" by the commission's report, but some pre- and post-marital intimate sexual relationships have "the potential to be life-giving and not life-draining."

The 1,100 deputies and bishops are representing the 2.7 million members of the Episcopal Church. There are 15,000 ordained clergy in the United States.

Army to Appeal Pro-Gay Decision

From STAFF REPORTS

February's historic court ruling that struck down the Army's ban on homosexuals will be reconsidered by a San Francisco federal appeals court, it was reported last week.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted a request from the Reagan administration to refer the case to an 11-member panel for a hearing.

On Feb. 10, a court panel ruled 2-1 that 1981 Army regulations calling for discharge on the grounds of homosexual orientation is unconstitutional. Until then, the armed services' right to base discharges on homosexual conduct had been upheld by the courts.

The landmark ruling came as a result of a case involving Perry Watkins, 39, who joined the Army in 1967 at the age of 19 and told recruiters he had homosexual tendencies.

The appeals court said the Army's regulations went further into the realm of personal privacy by applying to sexual orientation, regardless of conduct. Further, the court said homosexuals, as victims of historic mistreatment, were entitled to the same constitutional protection against government discrimination as racial minorities. No other appellate court had ever reached that decision.

Leonard Graff, legal director of National Gay Rights Advocates in San Francisco, while expressing dismay at the developments nonetheless hailed the original decision "as cause for celebration."

"The struggle for equal rights for lesbians and gay men is a long-term struggle. Realistically, we have to expect some setbacks. That doesn't mean we give up," Graff said.

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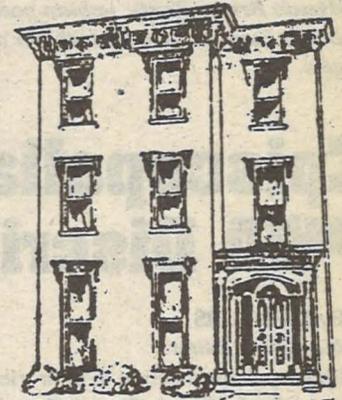
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Vanderbilt Stages Ampligen Trials

By **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

Men who have been infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) are needed by Vanderbilt University researchers to test a new drug to determine if it has fewer side effects than current methods of treatment.

Ampligen, a new synthetic drug which resembles a virus, is being tested at Vanderbilt in hopes of developing a drug which will

slow the growth rate of the AIDS virus. The HIV virus is believed by researchers to be the cause of AIDS.

Ampligen is not as toxic as azidothymidine, or AZT, the only drug licensed to treat people with AIDS. Ampligen does not directly affect the metabolism of the AIDS virus as AZT does.

Researchers believe that Ampligen will cause fewer problems, will decrease the blood's level of toxicity and will prove to be

safe and non-toxic. If licensed by the Food and Drug Administration, researchers hope ampligen will be used in treatments along with AZT.

AZT, however, has been known to cause vomiting and nausea. Many patients undergoing treatment with the drug have had to have blood transfusions because AZT affects the bone marrow which produces red blood cells.

"When I first began AZT treatment, I suffered convulsions until the dosage level was decreased," said AIDS patient Jamie McMahan. "I had to have blood transfusions on an almost weekly basis because of the AZT. Hopefully, Ampligen will not have the same side effects as AZT."

Thus far, six men have been recruited to participate in the Vanderbilt study, researchers said. The study is directed toward men between the ages of 18 and 55 who have

tested HIV-positive, but who have yet to develop the full-blown AIDS virus. Further, patients must show slight symptoms that are indicative of the vulnerability of their immune systems.

The Vanderbilt study is a "double-blind" experiment with some patients being treated with Ampligen and others being given a placebo. Twice a week for nine months, patients will receive injections with neither researchers or volunteers knowing who was given the drug and who was given the placebo.

Persons who fit the description and who would like to be considered for the study can call Vanderbilt AIDS Project at 322-AIDS or Dr. Lewis Lefkowitz at 343-6693.

Other testing sites include Philadelphia, New York, Miami, Atlanta, Houston and Washington, D.C.

Federal AIDS Budget Grows

By **JOHN WARD**
Special to Dare

WASHINGTON - About \$1.3 billion is how much President Reagan is seeking from Congress to fight AIDS during the next fiscal year and it looks like that's how much lawmakers will allocate in the next budget.

Reagan's request falls far short of the \$2.078 billion that a coalition of health, civil rights and professional groups - National Organizations Responding to AIDS (NORA) - wants. And that figure stills falls short of the \$3 billion recommended by the President's Commission on AIDS.

But it is 30% more than this year's \$925 million AIDS budget, which is \$134 million more than the administration sought last year.

On May 26, the House passed its budget resolution which included \$1.46 billion for AIDS, the sum proposed by the House Budget Committee. But the resolution is only a target.

Meeting behind closed doors in late May, the subcommittee on Appropriations that handles AIDS (Labor - Health and Human Services - Education) proposed only between \$1.2 and \$1.3 billion, a source said. The subcommittee's chair is Rep. William Natcher (D-Ky.), one of the House's most respected

members. The full committee is expected to vote on that sum in late June.

The committee is not expected to raise it from \$1.3 billion, said Jeff Levi, president of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"They have so many fiscal constraints that I doubt they will be able to match the budget resolution," Levi said. "I am disappointed but not surprised."

The 57-member committee is chaired by Rep. Jamie Whitten (D-Miss.), the House's longest-serving member.

The Appropriations subcommittee vote came right after NORA issued a 13-page paper arguing for \$2.078 billion. NORA hopes the paper will unify groups fighting for AIDS dollars, Levi said.

Meanwhile, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, has unveiled a five-year budget that includes \$1.5 billion to fight AIDS during the next fiscal year. It would increase to \$2 billion in 1990, \$2.2 billion in 1991, \$2.5 billion in 1992, and \$3 billion in 1993.

Those sums are based on the recommendations of the President's AIDS Commission, a Jackson staffer said. More AIDS dollars are also in the budget's drug abuse section but are not delineated.

MCC Art Auction Draws Crowd, Profit

By **HARRISON HICKS**
Staff Writer

Art was the attraction Saturday night as more than eighty people gathered to bid on works by contemporary and traditional artists in a benefit for the Nashville Metropolitan Community Church.

The auction, the first for Nashville's MCC, was rated a success by the Rev. Paul Tucker, pastor of the church.

"It exceeded our expectations," Tucker said.

Gross sales from the auction, held at the First Unitarian Church on Woodmont Boulevard, totalled over \$8,500, with individual pieces selling for as much as \$500 or as little as \$20. Of the \$8,500 collected, Tucker estimated that MCC would net approximately \$1,800 after expenses.

A representative for Art Auctions, Inc.,

which presided over the auction, stated that the proceeds were "a little above average" for smaller organizations such as MCC, noting that subsequent auctions by sponsoring organizations usually increase their sales from 50 to 100 percent.

Profits from the sale are expected to be used in a variety of ways, Tucker said.

"I suspect a portion of it (the profits) will go to our new building fund, which is in its early planning stages," he said.

Also expected to benefit are the church's various outreach programs, including its Church and Community Forums, a monthly event designed to deal with different topics of interest to the gay community. Other outreach programs in the past have included counseling programs and the inception of Nashville CARES, the first AIDS social services organization in the country.

Briefs

Community Asked to Join Boycott

Lesbians and gay men have been asked to participate in a United Farm Workers boycott of California grapes.

Union organizer and gay activist Howard Wallace, representing the UFW, has called on the lesbian and gay community for "renewed commitment to boycotting fresh table grapes from California," according to Boston's *Gay Community News*.

Citing health risks from pesticides used in growing grapes, the UFW, backed by the Environmental Protection Agency, asks for boycott of all grapes sold in supermarkets between May and December.

T-GALA Announces Raffle

The Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) has announced a fundraising raffle to take place in August.

Terry Kevlin, Finance Committee Co-chair, said that a 1983 Toyota Corolla would be among the prizes awarded in the raffle. Other prizes and details will be announced later.

Tickets for the raffle are \$2 each and are available from T-GALA members.

Crossdresser Support Group Forming

Double Image, an international support group for transvestites, transsexuals, crossdressers and their families, has begun publication of a monthly newsletter. Subscriptions are \$10 annually.

More information is available from Double Image at Box 71795, Las Vegas, NV 89170 or phone (702) 795-8798.

AIDS Protests Planned for Republican Convention

The Republican National Convention in New Orleans this August will be the focus of AIDS protests, according to AIDS activist Nathan Chapman, who is planning the protests.

Chapman has issued a call for help in planning and staging the protests at the convention during the third week of August. Chapman has specifically asked for help from those experienced in civil disobedience actions.

For more information contact Chapman at (504) 525-0932.



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4 Interview

Minnie Bruce Pratt Talks About the South and Political Organizing

By Deborah Burks
Staff Writer

Minnie Bruce Pratt is a teacher and lesbian activist who has published two books of poetry, *The Sound of One Fork* and *We Say We Love Each Other*. Now living in Washington, D.C., Pratt was born and raised in Alabama. Her Southern feminist views are presented in *Yours in Struggle: Three Feminist Perspectives on Anti-Semitism and Racism*, a work she co-authored with Elly Bulkin and Barbara Smith.

At the recent Southern Women's Music Festival, we talked - one Alabamian to another - about activism in the South.

Burks: How did you feel about moving from the South to Washington, D.C.?

Pratt: Leaving the South was a difficult decision for me. I feel strongly that many of the powerful social changes come out of the South and I know why. It's because the repression is so strong here and also because of the black civil rights organizing. I feel the roots of the women's movement are here. Right now in the South, there's a kind of energy for lesbian and gay work.

In the South, the intensity of organizing is different from any other part of the country. The strong repression generates a particular kind of energy that I knew I was taking myself away from when I moved to Washington, D.C. where the issues are more focused on national and international politics. I felt that I needed to move from a regional to an international analysis of issues. But because there's so much happening in the South, I really miss it!

What approach do you think the lesbian and gay movement should take in organizing the less-urban areas of the South?

I lived in Fayetteville, N.C., for a long time and we tried to organize there. My first experience was that of getting a small group of lesbians together in the midst of a great deal of fear. I think that in organizing under such circumstances one must understand the level of fear and endangerment that people feel and really work on establishing trust. You can't just say "Okay, it's time to go out and do public things." The first step is to encourage socializing.

At that time in Fayetteville, I was ready to rush out and start organizing. What I didn't understand was that we just needed to get to know each other as lesbians through rap groups and consciousness raising. I wanted to push them my way and it was the wrong thing to do. I was underestimating our internalized homophobia.

So I would say the very first step in organizing in these areas is to get a group of people together to be with each other and



Minnie Bruce Pratt

Deborah Burks

It's also important to be sensitive to different strategies. Some people prefer to work outside the system in a more separatist way, not just dykes but people who want to work on their own identities. Then, there are people who want to interact with the status quo and alter it. Both of these approaches are valid and it's important not to make people conform to other group's methods.

build the kind of support and that can, when the next outward step comes, deal with fear. Part of what happens in organizing is that people's fears push you back. That's what building trust is about - helping each other get strong. Out of this will evolve a particular strategy for moving forward.

It's also important to be sensitive to different strategies. Some people prefer to work outside the system in a more separatist way, not just dykes but people who want to work on their own identities. Then, there are people who want to interact with the *status quo* and alter it. Both of these approaches are valid and it's important not to make people conform to other group's methods.

On a more political note, do you support Jesse Jackson?

Absolutely! It's been much easier supporting him this time than in '84. I really think he's matured. I know I'm idealizing, but I can't listen to him without feeling the realities and heart of what he's saying. He's an authentic voice of the movement.

It angers me that gay men and women would vote for Dukakis when we have a candidate like Jackson who's excellent on issues like violence against women, gay and lesbian rights and abortion.

Do you attribute this lack of support to racism?

I think it's partly racism in the sense that "a black man can't do it and therefore, we're not wasting our vote." And it's *not* racism in that people don't believe that things can be different. It's a kind of despair, a loss of faith in the revolutionary process. That's wrong. If enough people believe it, it would happen.

In attempting to build coalitions with the black community, I've sometimes compared the struggle for lesbian and gay rights to the black civil rights movement. Do you think this approach is effective?

I think it is not a good idea when trying to talk to someone about your issues to compare it to their issues. Immediately they feel like "we've done all this work and now your co-opting it to advance your movement." Secondly, they feel like our pain is our pain and nobody else can share it.

I have found that personal testimony is the best way to educate people. You just say I've had this happen to me because I'm a lesbian or my best friend lost her children because she's a lesbian.

If you're doing coalition work and people don't want you because they're homophobic, explain how your life connects to the issues they're working on.



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WAREHOUSE 28 • 2529 Franklin Road • 385-9689**Sociables***Parties, Parties, Parties*By **Jaan Sturgis**
Staff Writer

Have you ever heard of Outrageous Parties, Ltd.? Neither had I until the other night Ed Cox, the company's president, called me to tell me about this new concept. The concept boils down to theatrical catering. Parties they will do, but it must be outrageous, or at least special.

They've done parties for the South Central Bell kickoff of the United Way campaign, the upcoming Southeastern Legal Conference, and a 63-person party at John and Heidi Hassenfeld's where one of the Chippendale's and Carmella Marcella Garcia were featured. Each party has a special theme and script written for that occasion and all are copyrighted. Wouldn't you love to wake up one morning to Outrageous' luscious and individual breakfast in bed? I wonder who would cater that? Ring Ed at 383-0023 for more info.

The lovely and talented Eddie Denson has again captured DJ of the Year honors from the Dixie Dancekings. The Dancekings distribute platters to clubs all over the Southeast, so they know talent when they see it. This is the fourth time that Warehouse 28 has elbowed aside everyone else in Tennessee - including all those straight clubs - and grabbed the top spot. Can you say DJ dynasty?

Tommy Lawson and Daryle Grenead truly gave THE party of the season when they threw Party III at their lovely Southern estate Live Oak last Sunday evening in celebration of Independence Day. For the butch "physical" types volley ball was available while other attendees practiced batting their eyelashes.

Three eight-foot tables were piled with food - brought by partygoers who numbered in excess of 200 from as far away as California! (My, isn't Nashville cosmopolitan!) Of course, there were trinkets for all attendees including "I Love Nashville" luggage tags for the many out-of-towners, Minnie Pearl fans, post cards of Twitty City, and so forth. Among the festive partygoers were Bob Register and his entourage, Mark James, the staff of Warehouse 28, Matt Nelson, and the management of the Chute. The highlight of the evening came when a ten-foot tall Statue of Liberty was lit and threw out fireworks as the late Kate Smith belted "God Bless America" and hankies were everywhere as tears were being wiped away. THE party of the summer social season was one you shouldn't have missed.

Law student Laura Tek did a stunning job recently when she was interviewed on *Talk of the Town* by Dianne Shulman. Representing lesbian mothers everywhere, Laura answered directly, succinctly and articulately such questions as how good a parent she

was, what kind of role model she offered and whether she had been discriminated against as a lesbian mother. She stressed the basic values of morality and hard work and is to be commended for representing our community in such a positive light. Laura is also trying to get a group started for lesbian and gay parents. Give her a call at 646-7225 for more info.

Dare's own Ann Taylor and Stuart Bivin appeared on WLAC-AM radio's Pat Riley show. Riley was judgmental in his questions: he asked about theology, the constitution and the sex stings in Centennial Park; however, the pair answered his questions and those of the two callers in a most levelheaded manner. A job well done!

Last Thursday evening saw a wine-and-cheese fundraiser, at the Woodmont Terrace Apartments clubhouse, for the Nashville Voters Coalition's two members who are delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Kate Monaghan of the Nashville Coalition for the Homeless and Paul Slentz, director of Nashvillians for a Nuclear Arms Freeze, will represent the group in Atlanta later this month.

Earl Carlile, longtime accountant at Warehouse 28, has departed for the Big Apple. His new employment with the IRS places him in a two-year training program after which he will be transferred elsewhere. Look out, tax cheats. Earl's smiling face will be missed by all of gay Nashville.

Dr. Sandee Potter, executive director of Nashville CARES, told me recently that the late June benefit at Warehouse 28 was a huge success. Although the exact (or not-so-exact) dollar amount raised was not disclosed, the two show were well-attended and all enjoyed the dulcet tones of Greg Fisher, who sang "The Impossible Dream." Perhaps of equal importance is the recent \$3,000 donation given Nashville CARES by Broadway Cares, an AIDS support and resources organization of actors in New York City. With this \$3,000 base Potter is hopeful that CARES can hire a part-time social worker. The present staff - herself and social worker Dan Ramey - handle their 150+ case load. (This number includes people with AIDS, ARC, HIV-positives and lovers and families.) Founded in August of 1985, the CARES organization certainly could use any help you could offer, monetary or human resource. Just give Sandee Potter a call at 385-1510 to see where you can fit in.

What have you been up to lately - off traveling to the Bahamas, Europe or Cleveland? Attended or planning any interesting parties? Give me a call and let me know - 226-4034 (evenings).

That's *Sociables* for this week, dearhearts. See you next time!

Dare Moves to Fridays

Dare will now be published on Fridays, rather than Wednesdays.

The move will allow us to better cover news that happens over the weekend, and will cut 4 days off our lead time. We'll be better able to keep you up to date with the news you need and the features you want.

The move will also speed up our distribution - you'll be able to pick up *Dare* the day it's printed, in any one of our 20 Tennessee locations.

See ya Friday.

Growing Up

Jeffrey Levi, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, keynoted the Pride '88 rally and festival Saturday, June 25 in Nashville's Centennial Park. Here is the transcript of Levi's Nashville speech:

"I am really pleased to be able to join you in your first march. This seems to be the Pride month of first marches for me, because last weekend I was in Oklahoma City where they had a march almost as big, and it was their first march as well.

"This is the sort of thing that is making history, history for our community locally and nationally, because whatever the media may say, the center of our community and the meaning of our community isn't in New York or San Francisco, it's in places like Nashville.

"It's where people are willing to come out and be open where it takes a good deal more courage to march down the streets in front of Nashville than it does in the streets of San Francisco or New York. As someone said last week in Oklahoma City, we need to make these marches every year and we need to make them bigger and bigger so there'll be so many of us they won't be able to fire us all.

"Our community will never really have power at the national level until we're strong locally, until we're strong in every state, so that the senators from Tennessee and the congressmen from Tennessee are just as responsive to the lesbian and gay community as the senators from New York and California ought to be.

"Our community is based on sexuality, and that's something that's real hard for some heterosexuals to understand. We're diverse, we come from every class, from every race, from every profession, from every religion, from every background, and yet we have this feeling of community. It's a feeling of community that comes from shared oppression, it's the discrimination that we face every day in our lives, whether it's in our jobs or with our families or in fighting for custody of our kids or just simple recognition of our relationships. It's that discrimination that unites us all.

"What's interesting about that unity is that it's a sense of unity and a sense of commu-

nity that we learn with each generation; unlike any other minority, we don't learn from our parents, most of us at least, what it means to be lesbian and gay, what that common history is. Each of us has to discover it for ourselves. That makes the transition a little bit more difficult and possibly a little bit more painful, but once we make that discovery it's that much stronger. So what we're doing in pride celebrations here and around the country is really celebrating that experience and celebrating that common feeling.

"But while we're celebrating we're also in crisis. The AIDS crisis is something that is affecting us all and has brought tragedy to our community, but out of that tragedy we've become stronger, we've become better organized and we've built the organizations that have taken the place of the government that won't respond to our needs. But at the same time the old oppressions won't leave us - violence and discrimination. An NGLTF survey of anti-gay violence last year showed an increase of 42%, and the daily oppressions continue in our jobs and in our families.

"But when we think about how much we have to overcome we also have to remember how far we've come. We're visible in the media; we're visible in the streets. Four or five years ago I don't think you would have had the local television stations covering this kind of march and today it was news.

"We're visible in the streets of Nashville and we sure were visible in the streets of

Washington last October. We've mobilized in response to AIDS that gives new meaning to the notion of Reagan Republican Volunteerism. We've responded in the best spirit of Reagan Republican Volunteerism and I don't understand why he doesn't respond in kind.

"We've come a long way when the former chief of naval operations, Admiral Watkins, who chaired the president's commission on AIDS, talks about the need to recognize gay families in AIDS care.

"We've come a real long way when the surgeon general of the United States explains on network television that homophobia is rampant in Washington.

"Now, I just got back from Sweden last week for the fourth international conference on AIDS, and that was certainly telling in how much things have changed and how much things have improved. Instead of Margaret Heckler at the first meeting four years ago talking about protecting the truly innocent we had the prime minister of Sweden and a supreme court justice from

Australia denouncing homophobia:

"Instead of closed-minded straight scientists telling gay people how they behave and how they ought to behave, we had behavior research done by openly gay scientists and the news they reported was good. The news they reported was that when it's not straight government officials telling us how to lead our lives but gay community organizations explaining to us how we need to

Susan Brumling



Dates

Your nonprofit event or organization can be listed at no charge in *Dates* or *Listings*. Just drop a postcard or letter to *Dare*, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422, or phone 292-9623 and leave a message. Please include information about time, location, cost, sponsor, and a contact person's name with address and/or phone number for verification.

July

11 Monday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5:30pm.
Nashville CARES Gay Couples Support Group. 6pm.
Nashville CARES Family Support Group. 6:30pm.
Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) Monthly meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7pm.
Lambda Group Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 8pm.

12 Tuesday

Vanderbilt Lambda Association Social, Sarratt 118. Bring snacks; no business or politics. 6pm.
Nashville CARES HIV Education Support Groups. 7pm.
Al-Anon Meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.
Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC. 8pm.

13 Wednesday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 6:30pm.
Nashville CARES HIV/Chemical Dependency Support Group. 7pm. Info phone 385-1510.
Support Group for Lesbians and Gay Men Meeting. 8pm. Info phone 833-4598.

14 Thursday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5pm.
Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 8pm.
Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Info phone 385-4776 or 352-5823. 8pm.

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Listings

Restaurants & Clubs

Chez Collette
 407 1st Av South
 Nashville
 256-9134

The Jungle
 306 4th Av Sout h
 Nashville
 256-9411

Tom's Place
 1407market St
 Chattanooga

Allen Gold's
 1100 McCallie Av
 Chattanooga

The Gas Lite
 167 1/2 8th Av North
 Nashville
 254-1278

New Attitude
 1803 Church St
 Nashville
 320-5154

Victor/Victoria's
 111 8th Av North
 Nashville
 244-7256

The Cabaret
 1711 Hayes St
 Nashville
 320-7082

Crazy Cowboy II
 2311 Franklin Rd
 Nashville
 259-5318

The Office
 130 Franklin St
 Clarksville
 645-1157

Warehouse 28
 2529 Franklin Rd
 Nashville
 385-9689

The Chute
 2535 Franklin Rd
 Nashville
 297-4571

Juanita's
 1700 4th Av South
 Nashville
 256-9681

Ralph's Rulledge Hill Tavern
 515 2nd Av South
 Nashville
 256-9682

World's End
 1713 Church St
 Nashville
 329-3480

Dates

8 Friday

Sexaholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC. 5pm.
Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group Meeting, Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

9 Saturday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4pm.
Metropolitan Community Church Mortgage Meal, all you can eat. 7:30pm. \$5.

10 Sunday

Metropolitan Community Church Worship services, 11am and 7pm.
The Office Co-ed softball, Mericourt Park, Clarksville. 1pm.
Tennessee Association of the Deaf Women's softball practice, Calvert Field. 1-3pm.
Feminist Book Circle Discussion of Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness*, Dare Library, 164 8th Ave North, Suite 202. Info phone 298-9931 or 383-4986. 5-7pm.

15 Friday

Sexaholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC. 5pm.
Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group Meeting, Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

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Organizations

Metropolitan Community Church
 131 15th Avenue North, Nashville 37203
 320-0288

Nashville CARES Sandee Potter, *Director*
 Box 25107, Nashville 37202
 385-1510
AIDS Crisis Line
 385-AIDS

Nashville Women's Alliance
 Box 120834, Nashville 37212
 366-0555

National Organization for Women (Tennessee)
 Elizabeth Jamison, *President*
 Box 120523, Nashville 37212

American Civil Liberties Union
 Hedy Weinberg, *Director*
 Box 120160, Nashville 37212
 256-7028

Lesbian & Gay Anti-Violence Hotline
 256-7028

Conductors
 Box 40261, Nashville 37204

Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance
 (T-GALA)
 Box 24181, Nashville 37202

Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Task Force (TGLTF)
 Carole Cunningham, *President*
 Box 24181, Nashville 37202

Tennesseans Keeping Abortion Legal and Safe
 (TKALS)
 Box 120871, Nashville 37212
 297-8540

Vanderbilt AIDS Project
 Suite CCC5319 Medical Center North
 Vanderbilt University
 Nashville 37232
 322-AIDS or 322-2252

Vanderbilt Lambda Association
 Box 121743, Nashville 37212

Women's Resource Center (YWCA)
 1608 Woodmont Blvd
 385-3952

Listings

Between the Lines

All About Alice

By **SHERRE DRYDEN**
Entertainment Editor

It seems like the question I'm asked most often lately is, "How did you find out about Alice Mitchell?"

I suppose I'm a little surprised that so many people are intrigued by the story and want to know more. I knew I was obsessed - I became quite defensive one day when a co-worker maligned Alice - so it really pleases me to have sparked the interest of others.

I came across the story in *Gay American History*, and later the *Gay/Lesbian Almanac*, while looking for subjects for "Pride Profiles" for *Dare*. I noticed that those books only included excerpts from the *New York Times* and the *Memphis Medical Monthly*. Reasoning that if the story had received national coverage there must be more information, I decided to look at local sources.

My first stop was the *Times* and the *Atlanta Constitution* - the only 1892 newspapers in the Vanderbilt University library where I work. There was a little more than what is reprinted in *Gay American History* (although the articles for the two papers appear to have been written by the same person) but only enough to fuel my interest. I decided to continue my research at the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

It seems silly, but my hands shook a little as I loaded the microfilm reel of the 1892 *Memphis Commercial* onto the reader. I'm sure my excitement (I think I shouted, "Here she is!" to the graduate assistant who went with me) amused the other researchers around me. Most of them seemed to be doing genealogical research and I wondered what they'd think of Alice.

We looked at all of the Memphis papers

and the Knoxville, Nashville and Bolivar papers as well. One day I went to the manuscripts room and saw Alice's name on the original patient rolls from Western State. I looked for information about the judge (who was later impeached) and the lawyers (one became governor of Tennessee). Mysteriously (it seemed) most of the Memphis papers from the time of Alice's sanity hearing were missing.

In late June, I went to Memphis. I wanted to see where things had happened and do more research in the Memphis and Shelby County Public Library. At first it seemed that the mystery of the missing papers would be continued. Librarians could not find clippings about the case that had been in the file a few days before. The mystery was solved when the clippings were found on the desk of a librarian I had talked to a few days before - she had copied the clippings to mail to me.

I also copied the complete article from the *Memphis Medical Monthly*, found some of the Memphis papers that had been missing from the Archive's collection and saw the court execution docket from Alice's sanity hearing. I found the Customs House (now the Post Office) and the railroad tracks near the river. Not the same tracks where Freda died, I know, but probably in the same location.

In the afternoon I visited Elmwood Cemetery and learned that Alice had been buried a day earlier than newspaper reports said. The women there found the graves for me by looking in the original daybooks. It was amazing to see Freda and Alice's names, written in the books in 1892 and 1898. A few minutes later I stood on the grassy spot where Freda's unmarked grave is and

photographed Alice's headstone.

On the way back to Nashville I stopped in Bolivar to look at the "asylum." It's a spooky, gothic place that I imagine looked much the same in 1892 as it does now. It was sad to think of Alice driving up that road, knowing she would probably never leave. Pictures of the grounds were prohibited, but I nervously took a few hurried shots from the roadside.

Everyone I encountered was as helpful as they could be, and most of them knew what I was looking for and why. The Memphis librarians were particularly helpful, suggesting places to look; bringing books, clippings and microfilm; giving directions. My friends and colleagues were truly interested, offered advice and listened to me talk on and on about Alice and Freda.

Special thanks go to Jeff Ellis, my editor, who has encouraged and helped from the beginning, and Vickie Hill, my graduate assistant. Vickie got stuck with a lot of the boring parts of the research while working with me at the Archives and in Memphis. Without her help I would still be making microfilm copies somewhere.

I'm not sure where I'll take the story next. There is more information to find. And I'm convinced this is more than just Alice and Freda's story. I've only touched on the broader connection with women's sexuality and mental health.

I've not written at all about the impact on the case of lesbians. As recently as 1954, Frank Caprio, who states that "lesbians as a group are generally sadomasochistic" uses Alice and Freda as examples in his introductory text on lesbianism.

I'm not ready yet to let Alice go.

Dare

The Lesbian and Gay Newspaper
From the Heart of the American South

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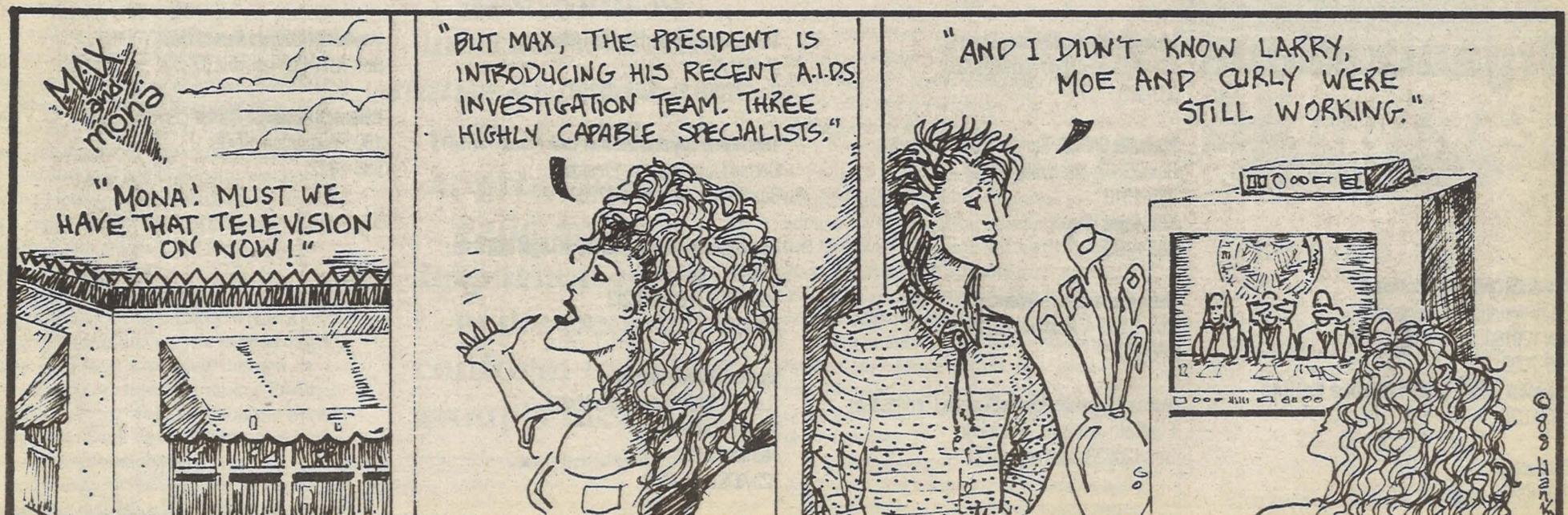
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Max and Mona



Soapbox

Dare invites your letters and opinions, and this space is intended to serve as an open forum for the free exchange of ideas. *Soapbox* submissions must be typed, double-spaced and over 300 words. All submissions must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number for verification. The writer's name may be withheld if requested.

What Does Pride Mean?

By Gary Bellamy
Special to *Dare*

Anyone present at Pride '88 will confirm the morning was perfect for a parade. Those two hundred bright faces filed along the parade route marking the historic event, Nashville's first lesbian and gay Pride parade. This annual celebration of the Stonewall riots is important to every homosexual. I'm grateful that I was there Saturday for the forging of two moments of our gay history.

I, like many of you, and 600,000 other lesbians and gay men, participated in the largest civil rights demonstration in our nation's history last October. We let this country know that we are out of the closet and never, ever going back. For most of us that struggle, to come out, was done alone, but for all of us, at some level, it was done to live honestly.

In coming out, we found we were not alone. We found one another. I, like so many of you, reached my sexual maturity around the time of Stonewall. That riot gave a new identity to homosexuals. We have been able to lead lives only dreamt of by our forefaggots and dykes. Our struggle in the closet was a brief one in comparison to our history.

We have made great strides in the nearly twenty years that have followed. Many of us have been in relationships that have endured. We've found acceptance professionally, among relatives and neighbors. This time is our time. To live differently is inconceivable. We will not be pushed back. We have seen how vital we are to the world we live in. Let's remember that and seize every opportunity to celebrate our uniqueness as lesbians and gays. Our unions and anniversaries are important. Our history must be preserved so future generations of our kind will know our great love and great sorrow.

By accepting our lesbianism and gayness, deeply, each of us has come to a better acceptance of the world and its differences. This must continue. But, as never before, it is vital the world begins to understand our need to live as equal and proud citizens.

With sadness and anger we have seen our progress eroding over the past few years. Gay and lesbian equal rights ordinances have been repealed, the Supreme Court has denied us equal protection under the law, and fundamentalist conservatives have tried to engineer a backlash against our community. We've lost friends, lovers, brothers and sisters to the devastation of AIDS, and we've had to fight for control of our destinies, our children, our joint holdings, our lives.

The conservative and reactionary far right of our country never counted on Stonewall. The powers controlling our country were secure that continuing heterosexist oppression of lesbians and gays, minorities and women would keep us in our closets. They

never dared to think we would begin to work together for a common goal - freedom.

We must defend the life of gay and lesbian pride and solidarity that we are building - open and proud, insisting on the same equal rights afforded to everyone under our constitution. In Washington, we marched 600,000 strong. We must stay strong.

For many of us - especially women - this is familiar work. They are the backbone of our movement. Because of the continuing discrimination against women in our society, they have remained vigilant in their efforts. Along the way, there have been many men who have fought long and hard, but only a handful in comparison to our numbers. Some of us have been complacent in these past years. We were gay, accepted, we had white skin privilege and we were male. Successful. A friendly politician who wouldn't speak for us, but shouldn't speak against us was acceptable. Our votes were courted for that reason. The work of standing up for our rights was done by gay activists, and whether or not we really had those rights on paper was not an issue. Those years for me were spent in San Francisco. Yes, gays made progress there. We would get out and vote. That vote, at times, allowed us the same freedoms as others, but that progress was served to us on a platter by a small group of hardworking activists.

A catastrophe called AIDS demonstrated the total lack of rights gay people really possess. No further demonstration needed. Now we have to become active. We have discovered that one person does make a difference. That we as a community can respond to events and actions in our cities, our states and our government, and directly affect the outcome of those events and actions.

We must each examine our level of commitment to changing the status of lesbians and gay men, of people with AIDS, of all women and all minorities. We've got to give a little more of our time and resources to the goals and projects in the Nashville community. We must fight bigotry, ignorance and hatred wherever it exists, to demonstrate that we are mad as hell - and we're not going back.

This is an election year. We have the opportunity to push our issues to national attention. The fight against evolution was waged in Tennessee. This earth could be a new battleground.

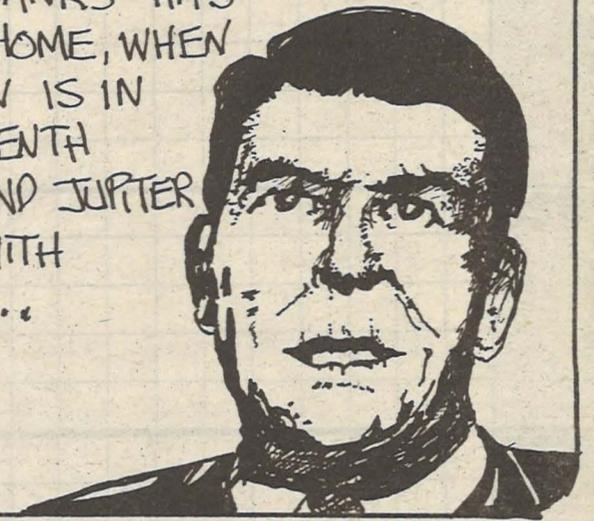
We'll put Tennessee on the map again. Well, at least register and get out and vote.

Gary Bellamy is a political activist and restaurant manager. He comes to Nashville from Dallas.

STUPID ANIMAL SOUNDS

...FOOD DOES NOT COME FROM SUPERMARKETS, POLICE ARE NOT NECESSARILY THERE FOR YOUR PROTECTION, INTELLIGENCE, INGENUITY AND A SEAT CLOSE TO AN EXIT IS THE BEST APPROACH. HOW CAN WE BE SURE BERT CONVY AND BURT REYNOLDS ARE JUST FRIENDS WHEN WE DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S JOHN DAVIDSON'S REAL HAIR OR WHAT KIND OF APPLIANCES BOB ELIBANKS HAS IN HIS HOME, WHEN THE MOON IS IN THE SEVENTH HOUSE AND JUPITER ALIGNS WITH MARS...

Hank '88



Box 40422

Dare invites your letters and opinions, and this space is intended to serve as an open forum for the free exchange of ideas. Letters must be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Longer submissions (300+ words) will be considered for publication in the *Soapbox* space. All submissions *must* be signed and include the writer's address and phone number for verification. The writer's name may be withheld if requested.

Dear *Dare*,

This is in response to your editorial "Naming Names is Our Job" (June 15-21).

There are several inconsistencies in your write up. First, this woman had called and *asked* you to please refrain from using her name for only a few months so that she could "Come Out" in her own time on a job she had for only a week. She also told you that she *could* not do the work that she had begun within our community if her name was spread all over your paper. Not as you reported.

If it is your policy to "use pseudonyms to protect an individual's safety or privacy" - does this not apply to one's right to keep their *[sic]* job? And yet you are "happy to refrain from printing names of those who are not in the public eye" - does that apply to those that haven't been active in the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance, but the minute they join committees and try to advance the rights of lesbians and gays they become fair game for your paper?

I have been a member of T-GALA since it's *[sic]* reorganization in October and it was my understanding that all members had the assurance that their confidentiality would be respected. As co-chair of the Internal Communications Committee and publisher of T-GALA's newsletter, I was well aware of the trust invested in me with articles and mailing lists and would call to ask people if their names could be used. It was standard operating procedure. As I recall, there was an incident in January that involved a few names taken from the mailing list of members that may have been interested in a local campaign. A big stink arose from this misuse of the list and the threat of Alliance members being exposed. A majority of a meeting was spent condemning the person who had labeled and personally mailed out campaign material. Several had asked for his resignation. He was publicly ridiculed and condemned. And who were the Alliance members that were fingerpointing the most, both in the meeting and behind the scene? None other than the Editor of *Dare* and one of his staff writers. And now it is their job to name names? Excuse me? *Dare* is setting a dangerous precedent *[sic]* if it is their job to expose Alliance members. Straight newspaper rules cannot apply here. Catherine Damell, you ain't. This is unacceptable!

Name withheld by request

