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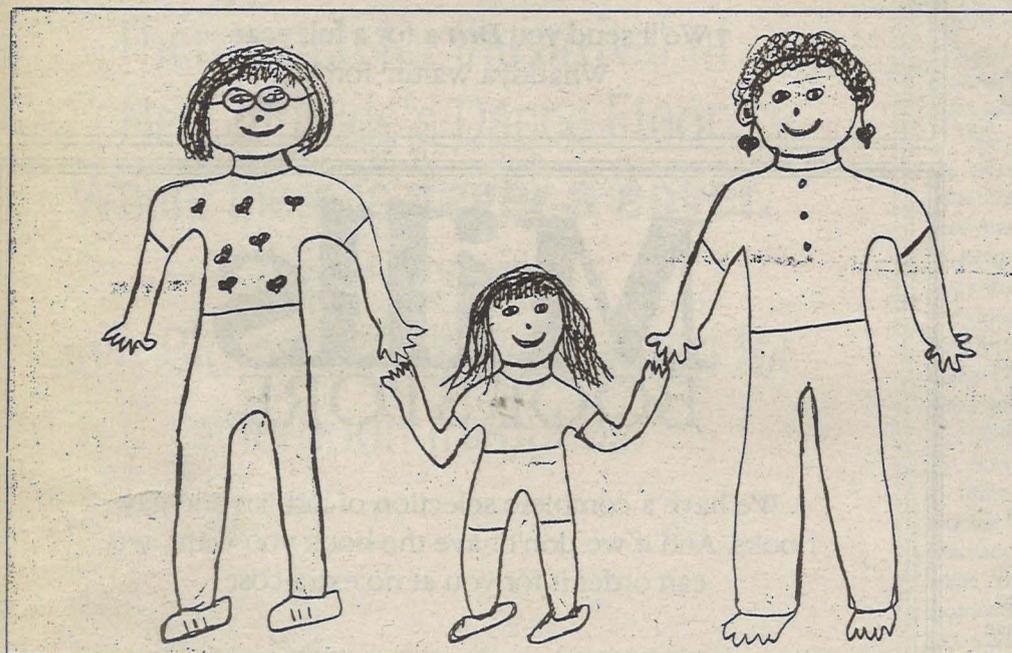
Dare

FREE

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 17

THE LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSPAPER

JULY 15-21, 1988



Angela, a ten-year-old whose parents just happen to be two lesbians, drew this picture of herself with both her mothers, Mary and Sue.

Episcopal Church Denies Right to Ordination

By JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

By the narrowest of margins - one vote - Episcopal Church Deputies meeting in Detroit this week refused to recognize the right of homosexuals to ordination.

However, ordination of homosexuals may continue in some of the church's 118 U.S. dioceses without breaking Episcopal canon law. According to canon law, candidates for ordination must be at least 21 years of age and pass prescribed material, academic and psychological tests.

The resolution which would have guaranteed "access to the selection process for ordination" for all people - both gay and straight - fell just one vote shy of passage by lay members of the House of Deputies attending the 69th General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

Some 900 lay and clergy deputies and 200 bishops form the policy-making bodies of the triennial convention, which has been in session since July 2.

The 66th General Convention in 1979 approved a resolution that stated, "We believe it is not appropriate for this church to ordain a practicing homosexual."

Canon law distinguishes between homosexual activity, which is regarded as sinful, and homosexual orientation, which is not considered sinful. According to some, the ordination of homosexuals is left to the discretion of each of the church's 118 individual dioceses.

Last Saturday, the 900-member House of

Deputies rejected a proposal condemning homosexuality. Instead, they called upon the church's dioceses to spend the next three years "in open dialogue" on the subject of homosexuals and their role in the church.

Earlier, Deputies had approved a resolution calling for an end to discrimination directed toward people with AIDS. A pre-convention report on human sexuality skirted the more controversial issues of same-sex marriages and sexual relations outside marriage.

"I think the issue of homosexuality was a major cause of concern at this convention," said Bishop George Reynolds of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee. "However, there was no real change from past church policy, except that we have attempted to show we are more open to discussion of the subject.

"There was no change other than opening up to a more inviting way of thinking. I feel what this convention called for was a dialogue concerning the acceptance of all God's children.

"Despite what the newspapers have reported, there was no resolution passed to change our ordination policies.

"Marriage is the normative state in which sexuality is expressed. The discussion of sexual morality shows that we are interested in engaging in a dialogue with homosexuals so that we can be better informed.

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Pride and Prejudice

Metro Mayor's Office Avoids Proclamation, Draws Activists' Ire

By HARRISON HICKS
Staff Writer

Despite displeasure with Metro Nashville Mayor Bill Boner's failure to issue a proclamation recognizing Pride Week '88, the mood was upbeat as more than thirty Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) members met at the Towne House Restaurant Monday to reflect on the success of Pride Week '88 and to discuss future plans for the organization.

"I think we can call it [the parade] a success," said Penny Campbell, one of the march organizers. The attendance of over 200 people for the parade and rally was better than expected, she noted, adding that plans are already under way to begin organizing next year's Pride Week celebration and march, with a strategy meeting tentatively scheduled for September 11.

Local television coverage of the event was examined by the group later in the meeting, as those present viewed a videotape compilation of local news stories covering the parade and rally. In particular, Channel 2 (WKRN) was dited for its coverage of the march by many of those present as being the best balanced and most thoughtful of the television coverage.

Carole Cunningham, president of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Task Force and another organizer of the parade, reported on the group's problems in dealing with the mayor's office. Noting that mayoral proclamations are made quite frequently at the request of community groups, Cunningham called the practice a "rubber stamp" endorsement routinely granted by Boner's office.

In the case of the Pride Week committee, however, according to Cunningham, there were "strong indications of stonewalling" by the mayor's office. The Pride Week committee, she said, had contacted the mayor's office weeks before the march to obtain a mayoral proclamation recognizing the march, yet received no response to their request. Repeated phone calls were left unreturned by city officials and appointments with city officials to discuss the situation were broken, said Cunningham.

Phone calls by *Dare* seeking comment from the mayor's press liaison, Bill Fletcher, were not returned.

"We were very upset at the general treatment both groups [T-GALA and the

Pride Week committee] received," said Cunningham, adding that small-scale phone campaign was started the Thursday before the march to get the mayor's office to respond to the committee's request for a mayoral proclamation. The Pride Week committee was then told that a decision on the request would be made by 1 pm the next day (Friday) and that the committee could talk to Fletcher.

However, Cunningham said, when committee members went to the mayor's office, they were told that Fletcher had left town for the weekend and that the mayor's office manager, Mary McDaniels, who had fielded the calls and arranged the meeting with Fletcher, was also out of the office.

Cunningham urged T-GALA members and people in the lesbian and gay community to express their disapproval of the actions of the mayor's office by writing or phoning the mayor and also by contacting members of the city council.

"We need to develop a relationship with that office that is professional, if not cooperative," Cunningham said.

Boner's failure to issue a proclamation recognizing Pride Week '88 comes a little more than a month after Cunningham and several other community activists presented the mayor's office with an AIDS funding budget proposal based on discussions with various city officials and health experts.

The proposal, which was projected to cost \$250,000, was to hire more social

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lesbian and gay parents
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Harrison Hicks
goes to the movies,
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2 Boner Angers Community

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workers to deal with the increasing AIDS caseload in Nashville and for education targeted at slowing the spread of the disease, which has been diagnosed in an estimated 500 Tennesseans.

Of that number, it is estimated by the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment that 35% are in middle Tennessee, mainly in Nashville, resulting so far in nearly a hundred deaths in the middle Tennessee area alone.

However, the proposal was not included

in the mayor's budget request that was brought recently before the Metro council for approval.

Instead, Cunningham noted, she and other members of the group that presented the proposal were contacted by the mayor's office with the promise that they would be put on a special mayoral task force to study the problem. To date, she said, she has heard nothing further from the mayor's office about either the funding proposal or the task force.

Episcopals Deny Right to Ordination

Continued from page 1

"We just don't know enough at present to make further changes," Reynolds added.

Consideration of gay and lesbian issues has been at the forefront this summer at conventions of other Protestant denominations.

In May, delegates to the United Methodist General Conference soundly defeated moves to authorize the ordination of gay men and lesbians as ministers. Delegates also

reasserted that "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching," but reaffirmed a belief that "God's grace is available to all."

Amid division on their denomination's future direction, delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention were unified long enough to call homosexuality "a perversion of divine standards." The Baptists deplored homosexuality as "deviant behavior that has wrought havoc in the lives of millions."

T-GALA Announces Raffle Details

By **HARRISON HICKS**
Staff Writer

Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) members will be canvassing the city over the next few weeks as their August raffle gets under way. Slated to award over \$8000 in prizes, the raffle will benefit T-GALA's Myron Z. Neel Education Fund, an educational fund set up for workshops, seminars, speakers, brochures, mailings, and support groups for, by and about gay and lesbian issues in Nashville.

Tickets, which cost \$2 each, qualify the purchaser to win various prizes including a 1983 Toyota Celica GTS car, not a Corolla as reported in last week's *Dare* with a Blue

Book value of \$6700, free chiropractic exams, a prime rib cruise on the *Belle Carol* for two, \$100 worth of framing, Grand Ole Opry tickets, movie passes, gift certificates, and many other prizes.

Tickets are available from T-GALA members, who will be selling at various locations in the city such as an upcoming Coffeehouse on July 23 at the Unitarian Church on Woodmont Boulevard. Members are also tentatively scheduled to sell tickets at various bars in town.

The drawing for prizes is tentatively scheduled to be held on August 27 at 8 PM at the Unitarian Church at 1808 Woodmont Boulevard.

The finding that Frisch most likes to cite from Avanti's market study is that 80% of gay[s]... "would be more likely to purchase products or services from companies if they maintain a presence in the gay media or some active involvement with the gay community." And if ads speak directly to the gay consumer, adds Frisch, so much the better.

- Sales & Marketing Management, 10/10/83

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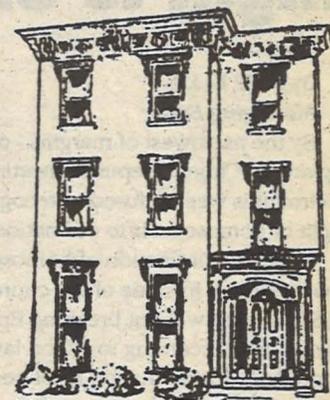
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Committee Evaluates Pride Festivities

By **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

Last month's Pride Week celebration was a "good success" according to organizers who have already begun preparations for next year's festivities.

"We've talked about next year and critiqued this year's Pride Week," said Penny Campbell, a Vanderbilt University Divinity School student serving an internship this summer with the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA), one of the celebration's sponsors.

"The only kinks we've found thus far regard committee structure," Campbell said. "But that's to be expected since this was the first year for Pride Week in Nashville."

According to Campbell, there are no apparent shortcomings in the entire week of activities which included a film festival at Vanderbilt's Sarratt Cinema, a women's coffeehouse and the parade and rally in Centennial Park which climaxed the event.

"I think we were a bit surprised there was no more organized protest," she said.

Only three protestors were visible to festival-goers and parade participants. Madison minister, the Rev. Mel Perry and a male companion carried placards decrying homosexuality calling AIDS God's plague on homosexuals. Richard Roberg, a Mennonite minister and Bible teacher, carried a sign reading, "No rain for Sodom," apparently referring to the midstate's lack of rainfall this summer which he attributed to a Tennesseean story about Pride Week activities.

The Pride Week committee is currently

formulating a survey to gauge the success of this year's event and to develop ideas for future celebrations.

A straw poll conducted earlier among local gay bars patrons proved interesting to the committee, Campbell said.

Though termed "somewhat skewed" by Campbell because the straw poll included few women and only bar patrons, she said it will form the basis for a more formal polling later this summer.

Chris Krakoviak, who developed the initial poll, said that the questionnaire is being refined and expanded for further study. Results from the new poll should be available in late August or early September, he said.

Among questions included in the poll:

- Did you attend the parade and rally?
- Was the parade route too long or too short?
- Was the rally too political in tone?

Initial responses show that some people claimed "they didn't know about Pride Week '88," Campbell said. Some respondents said the parade route was not visible enough, suggesting a route along West End Avenue and Broadway, while still others said they did not participate because they didn't want to make their sexuality public.

Campbell suggested that the forthcoming poll will prove to be invaluable as plans for next year's celebration get under way. A meeting in September will be the official kick-off for planning of Pride Week '89, she said.

Freedom Ride Coming to Nashville

By **STUART BIVIN**
Editor

Six New Yorkers touring the South as part of the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Ride will be in Nashville on the 26th or 27th of this month. The group, based at Bailey House, and AIDS service center for homeless people with AIDS, plans to travel from the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta this month to the Republican National Convention in New Orleans in August.

Heidi Dorow, speaking for the group, said that the purpose of the Ride is to "strengthen the networks of support between northern and southern lesbians and gays and to gain unity for all in our daily struggles for freedom and justice."

The Bailey House Quilt, composed of panels bearing the names of Bailey House residents who have died from AIDS, will be displayed during each stop on the Ride. This Bailey House Quilt is not officially connected with the NAMES Project Quilt, which was displayed at the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights last October and in Atlanta last month.

"We want to increase awareness about alternative medicines and care for people with AIDS," Dorow said, "and to let people in the South know that we support their work

for civil rights."

Rejecting the "cultural carpetbagger" label, Dorow said that the group's purpose is to help draw attention to activism in the South and to endorse such activism.

In cities without organized AIDS education, the group is also conducting public programs on safer sex, needle sterilization for IV-drug users.

The group will also visit such cities as Louisville, where they will rally in support of attempts to pass a gay and lesbian rights ordinance, and Montgomery, where they will try to help speed the delivery of Social Security benefits to people with AIDS.

The Freedom Ride will also stop in Knoxville.

Although there will be no formal program, the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) has invited the group to its next regular steering committee meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, at 7:30 pm. For information about the program and location, phone Penny Campbell at 297-4293.

Overnight accommodations for the six, five men and one woman, may be needed. To volunteer to host one or more of the group, contact Carole Cunningham, 292-7459.

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Who Framed Roger Rabbit? and Big - Two of the Summer's Best

By **HARRISON HICKS**
Staff Writer

As the American public has begun to increasingly ignore Sylvester Stallone (he of the militaristic fantasies and boxing movies *ad infinitum*), sending his *Rambo III* to box-office oblivion, two recent films with old-fashioned premises but decidedly modern twists have emerged this summer as favorites with audiences.

Who Framed Roger Rabbit?, which is shaping up as one of the biggest hits of the year, is definitely one of the most eye-popping movies in recent years, a deft and original mixture of animation and live action. The story of a hard-down-on-his-luck Forties detective helping a client beat a murder rap is hardly new, but in *Rabbit* the detective's client is, of all things, a cartoon rabbit - a "toon" as they're called in the movie.

Roger Rabbit has supposedly, in a fit of rage, murdered a human rumored to be having an affair with Jessica Rabbit, his cartoon wife.

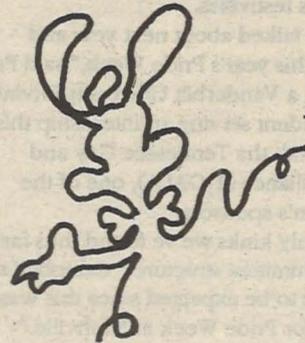
Along the way, countless cartoon characters from the Disney and Warner Brothers stables make cameo appearances in the midst of frantic action.

Daffy Duck and Donald Duck take part in a hilarious "Dueling Ducks" bit involving pianos, while other characters such as Betty Boop, Yosemite Sam, Mickey Mouse, Bugs Bunny, Dumbo, and others make appearances. Veering back and forth between the real world and the world in which the "toons" live, the main human character of the story, Eddie Valiant, solves the mystery, but not before the audience has enjoyed a highly delightful film.

Though put out by Disney studios, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*, reminds one more of the old Warner Brothers Looney Tunes cartoons, borrowing its sense of humor and high action from them. In one sense, parts of the film remind the moviegoer of films such as *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, at least in terms of fast-paced action sequences that occur in the movie.

Though some may think *Roger Rabbit* is just a kid's film, it isn't. There are plenty of *doubles entendres* designed to go over the kid's heads. The script and special effects hold the interest of adults as well. It's definitely one of the must see movies of the year and one of the most amazing technical achievements in film in quite some time.

Big, released by Twentieth Century Fox, is perhaps the unlikeliest hit of the year, coming as it has at the end of a cycle of movies such as *Like Father, Like Son*, *Vice Versa*, and *18 Again*, which have dealt with children exchanging minds with adult counterparts. Most of these films have been poorly done, ranging from nauseously bad



As the American public has begun to increasingly ignore Sylvester Stallone (he of the militaristic fantasies and boxing movies *ad infinitum*), sending his *Rambo III* to box-office oblivion, two recent films with old-fashioned premises but decidedly modern twists have emerged this summer as favorites with audiences.

(*Like Father, Like Son*) to the mildly tolerable (*Vice Versa*).

Big, however, outclasses all of these easily, turning into a subtle comedy for adult audiences that examines underlying themes of innocence and vulnerability.

Tom Hanks deserves his lion's share of the credit for this, expertly portraying the dilemma of a child forced to adjust to life in an adult world. Hanks stars as Joseph Baskin, a thirteen-year-old boy who wants to be a grown-up and wakes up one day to find his wish granted.

Hanks, besides merely going for the easy laughs inherent in the situation (and this film is very funny in stretches), shows us the feelings of a child lost in a desperate situation. After being chased out of his home by his mother, who thinks Hanks is some evil monster who has kidnapped her son, Hanks turns to his best friend, winningly portrayed by Jared Rushton, for help. With his friend's assistance, Hanks gets a room in New York City, but after he and his friend do the town, Hanks cries himself to sleep out of loneliness and fear.

Shortly thereafter, Hanks starts work at a toy company and is promoted to vice-president of product development, after the company president notices Hank's knack for picking out toys that children like.

In a touching and well-handled plot, Hanks has an affair with a woman executive at the firm, played by Elizabeth Perkins, who has been too caught up in her career to evaluate what she wants out of life. Seeing the innocence and other child-like qualities in Hanks, she reevaluates her life and rediscovers the vulnerability in her life which has been missing.

Perkins breathes life into what could have been a one-dimensional role, the stale chestnut of a woman who is changed by a man in her life.

Instead of merely reacting to Hanks, Perkins, in what is probably the more difficult role, manages to convince us that her character is a woman in search of herself, that Hanks is merely a catalyst, and that even in Hanks had never come along that she would have discovered in time those qualities within her that are brought out by the movie's end.

During the movie's bittersweet ending, you sense that Perkins will survive and grow stronger for the experience, unwilling to compromise her ideals and vulnerability to please the immature and insufferable men she has dealt with in the past. It's an excellent performance, a perfect balance to Hanks' little boy act. Without Perkins, Hanks would not be nearly so effective.

Big has been showing signs lately of a long run at the movie theatres. While not as highly identifiable or recognizable as such films as *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* or Eddie Murphy's *Coming to America*, *Big* does offer something the other films don't - touching comedy about relationships and rediscovering the best part of ourselves.



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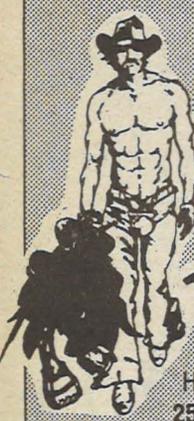
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AIDS Update

Answers and Questions

This week, there are a number of things of interest. First, Bob Keller coordinator of Metro's HIV Health Program, has described the program. Tennessee AIDS Education Coordinator Matt Nelson has an update on Medicaid and AZT, and then I'll answer a couple of questions often asked by volunteers and clients at Nashville CARES.

Medicaid and AZT

Tennessee Medicaid does not pay for AZT. However, prior approval must still be obtained from the state's Department of Health and Environment (in Nashville) to insure that only one prescription per patient is being honored. This prior approval involves the pharmacy completing their copy of a Medicaid Authorization Request (each pharmacy should already have copies of this form).

The completed form and a copy of the prescription should then be submitted to Department of Health and Environment (medical review section). Turn-around time is approximately 2 weeks, according to Matt Nelson. Prior approval is for six months only. Two weeks before approval is again needed, the process should be repeated by the pharmacy.

There will, of course, be times when immediate approval for AZT is needed, e.g., a patient's first AZT prescription. This immediate approval can be obtained by phone, and followed up with the needed paperwork.

Metro HIV Health Program

The Metro HIV Health Program seeks to afford HIV persons an opportunity to have a complete history and physical exam to further evaluate their medical status. Such an evaluation will give the individual a better understanding of their health, enable early detection of health problems and afford easy access to the existing health care in the community, according to Bob Keller.

The program is located at the Metropolitan Health Department at 311 23rd Avenue North, Room 116. The phone number is 327-9313.

Appointments will be scheduled Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 8:00 am and noon with an assigned physician, who will spend an hour taking a medical history, giving a physical exam and counseling each new patient.

The physician will give information on good health measures, nutritional information and safer-sex guidelines. The program will then refer the patient to appropriate social service organizations, such as CARES for assistance and support. If needed, referrals for medical service will also be made.

All records of patients seen in the program will be confidential and separate from existing sexually-transmitted disease (STD) clinical records.

How do I become a Nashville CARES volunteer?

First, get a volunteer application. After this application has been completed and returned to the CARES office, the potential volunteer will be contacted about the next training sessions for volunteers. Some CARES volunteer training is held jointly with the Vanderbilt AIDS Project and some are held separately, but an individual must attend a complete training session before becoming an active CARES volunteer working with the clients of Nashville CARES.

Exceptions to this required training policy can be made at the Executive Director's discretion if an individual has received training from another AIDS service organization.

CARES volunteers can participate in any of the following: being a Buddy for a person living with AIDS (PLWA), providing transportation for PLWAs to medical appointments, answering the 385-AIDS phone line, speaking on AIDS to various groups (schools, churches, clubs, etc.), creating graphic art work for a number of CARES projects, working on the agency's bulk mailing, writing for the monthly newsletter, grant writing, and assisting in the CARES office between 9 am and 5 pm Mondays through Fridays (primarily answering phones, directing callers to appropriate staff people, taking messages and answering questions regarding AIDS).

I've heard about the Nashville CARES newsletter. Can you give me some information on what it is and how to get it?

Earlier this year, the Nashville CARES newsletter went from a periodic publication to a bimonthly one and, according to our new schedule, a July/August newsletter should have been in the mailboxes of over 500 Nashvillians by now.

However, after careful evaluation of both the newsletter and the needs of Nashville CARES, a decision was made to go to a monthly newsletter. It is our belief that a monthly newsletter should also end the need to send out many of the first-class letters that we have had to rely on in the past to inform people of various meetings and agency activities. The first monthly Nashville CARES newsletter should be in the mail by the end of July.

I would like to end on a note of thanks to Steve Smith and everyone involved in Warehouse 28's production of *Waay Off Broadway*. Thom Carpenter contributed his artistic talent to this benefit held for Nashville CARES on June 26th, as did a fabulous cast which included Tony Doran, Troy Constantino, Victoria Diva, Greg Fisher, Flawless, Harlowe, Tony Harrison, Erica Knight, Lois Lane, Monica Munro, Esther Stein, Shelly Stone and Alexis Spaulding. Thank you all for caring.

Sandee J. Potter, Ph.D., is Executive Director of the Nashville Council on AIDS Resources, Education and Services.

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AIDS Update

We are Family:

By **DEBORAH BURKS**
Staff Writer

It's a new idea for many people - the thought of children being raised by gay men and lesbians.

But according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, there are an estimated 3 million gay and lesbian families in the United States. Although no figures are available on these families in the Nashville area, more and more local gay men and lesbians appear to be choosing parenthood.

Lesbian mothers and gay fathers are a reality, part of the increasingly diverse institution known as the American Family.

"There are so many configurations of families today. It's strange to me that we're considered oddities," exclaims Anne, a 32-year old lesbian mother of a 5-year old son. "Lesbian and gay families are just part of the changing concept of family."

Anne and her partner Susan, a 33-year old graduate student and mother of a 3-year old, represent perhaps the newest breed of families - lesbians who have chosen to have children through donor insemination. Donor insemination (often called "artificial insemination"), a process involving the use of collected sperm for conception, offers many women, particularly lesbians, the freedom to choose motherhood.

"I've always wanted to be a mother - it's something I've imagined about myself since childhood," Susan says. "I have a lot of mothering energy so I decided to have a

child."

Being lesbians never influenced Anne's or Susan's desire for children. "I've always known that I was going to be a mother. I never saw coming out as an obstacle to fulfilling my dreams of having a family," Anne remarks.

Anne and Susan, considered pioneers of donor insemination by the lesbian community in Nashville, chose different approaches to the process. Anne elected to have an anonymous donor that was arranged by a nurse-practitioner.

"I chose this route because I was concerned that some man would show up one day and want my child," Anne explains. She also felt knowing the donor would make the whole arrangement awkward.

Susan's donor, on the other hand, was a gay friend who volunteered to help her have a child. Susan and her donor arranged a legal contract which gave her the rights and responsibilities as the parent.

"He was willing to be a donor as a political statement, as a challenge to the patriarchy," Susan says with gratitude. "He has given me a tremendous gift."

How did Susan's and Anne's parents react to their having children this way? Anne's parents, particularly her mother, were supportive and even flew to Nashville for Eliot's birth. Susan's parents had a different reaction.

"My parents freaked out," Susan remembers. "My being pregnant was worse than

my coming out because they couldn't believe it was a phase and also they had to tell their friends."

But as Susan knew, the birth of Eli mended her relationship with her parents. She feels having Eli has been a rewarding experience for her parents.

Susan and Anne were not a couple when they had their respective children. Therefore, establishing their family meant merging two households. They both agree this involved dealing with "classic step-family problems."

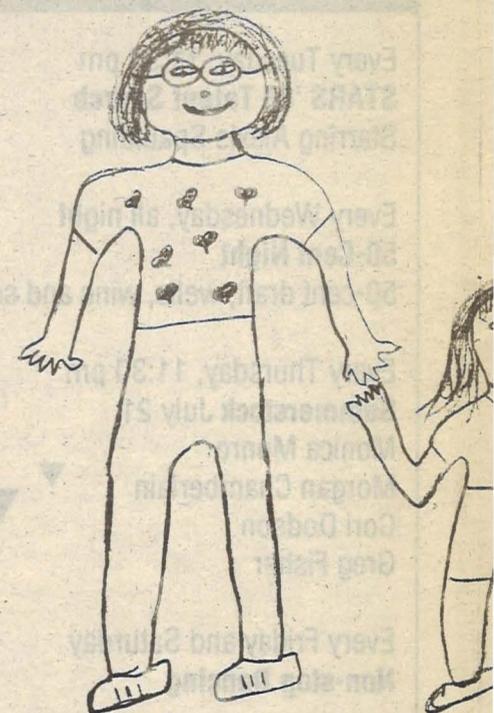
"We had to work out how the kids related to us as parents and vice versa and because there weren't really role models for us, we had to make our own way," Anne says.

How do Eli and Eliot deal with having lesbian mothers?

"They're oblivious - they don't know it's an issue with society," Susan proclaims. "They see love and not our sexual orientation. We think it's important to give them the words to use for our situation, so we explain it our way before society has a chance."

Susan uses the following story to illustrate the ease with which Eli and Eliot deal with their family arrangement: "On Eli's first trip to the dentist, the dentist was jokingly soliciting Eli's help in completing the patient information form. He asked if Eli was married. Eli responded, 'No but I have two mommies.'"

Anne and Susan think it's been easier to be open about their relationship since moving to Philadelphia where they are in a

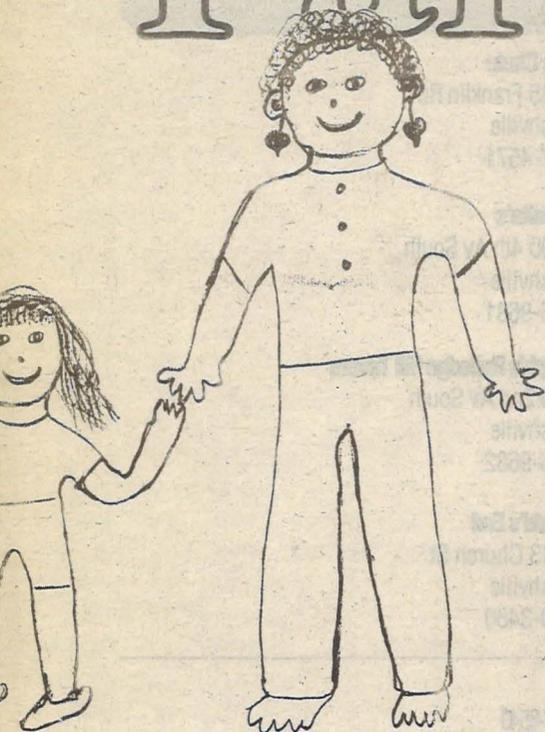


"community of lesbian mothers." Neither of these women feel being children of lesbians places a particular burden on their sons.

"I don't see it as a burden - it may be an issue but I'm giving Eli the tools to handle it," asserts Susan. "I feel he may have to deal with being Jewish more than having a mother who's a lesbian."

"Eliot is very capable of explaining our situation to his peers. When a friend of his insisted that everybody has a father, Eliot explained that everyone has a donor but some of them are daddies," says Anne. "It may be an issue with him as a teenager but so will braces if he needs them."

Gay and Lesbian Parents



Many gays and lesbians are parents of children born while the parents were in heterosexual marriages. Bobby, a gay father who has two children from his marriage, is typical of these parents.

"I knew I was gay but I couldn't accept it so I married by high school girlfriend to avoid it," says Bobby, a 28-year old restaurant manager, says. "I also wanted to have a family and didn't think it was possible if I was gay."

Bobby worked hard at making his nuclear family arrangement work but eventually pursued his attraction to men.

"I was miserable at home, trying to be

something I wasn't. So I finally told my wife. She was angry at first but then said she understood that I had to be myself," he remembers.

Though Bobby's wife retained custody of the children, he sees them often. "I've learned I can be gay and a father - it doesn't effect my ability to give my kids the love and security they need."

Not all former spouse's respond with as much understanding as Bobby's.

"After we first divorced, my wife was cool about letting me see my daughter but then she found out that I was gay," recalls Tom, a 30-year old computer programmer. "She accused me of all sorts of terrible things and refused to let me see my daughter for almost two years."

For most gay and lesbian parents, this situation represents their worst fear - the fear of losing their children because of their lifestyle. In most states, including Tennessee, a parent's sexual orientation can be justification for denying custody and visitation. This fear often forces gay and lesbian parents to be "secretive" about their lives, according to Jean, a 46-year old lesbian grandmother-to-be.

After 18 years of marriage, Jean divorced her husband but her lesbianism was not an issue in their divorce.

"I was too frightened so we divorced for more conventional reasons," Jean says. "Leaving my husband to love a woman was bittersweet - it was wonderful but I lived in

fear that he would find out that I was gay and take custody of our two kids."

Fearful of repercussions Jean doesn't discuss her lesbianism with her children. However, both Bobby and Tom are open with their children about their lifestyles.

"I've tried to explain to them that some men love women and some love men and that some women love women," Bobby says.

"My daughter doesn't really understand the anger her mother feels towards me. She likes to spend time with my lover and me," Tom explains. "Being black has helped her understand the discrimination that I as a gay father have experienced - she already knows how unfair the world can be."

Gay and lesbian parents agree - having children is an immense responsibility which influences their identity in the gay community.

"Many women don't understand that part of my life," says Laura, a law student and mother of three. "I also can't get as involved in community activities as I'd like because of obligations to my kids."

Because gay and lesbian parents often feel isolated from the community, Laura is forming a support group for gay and lesbian parents. Her goal is to provide an opportunity for lesbian and gay parents to discuss their problems and share their experiences.

The responsibility of parenthood for gays and lesbians is not always accompanied by recognition from society, particularly for non-biological co-parents.

Sue, a 28 year-old nurse, has lived with her lover Mary for 4 years and actively co-parents Mary's daughter, Angela.

Sue says, "The real struggle to be accepted as a parent has not been with Angela but with society. As the non-biological parent, I'm in an unrecognized role in an unacceptable relationship. It's very frustrating."

Because the legal rights of lesbian and gay co-parents are non-existent, Mary has made legal provisions in her will for Sue's role as Angela's other parent.

For gay and lesbian parents the struggle with society is worthwhile, according to those interviewed. They enjoy raising children, watching them grow and learn. But they are also breaking new ground, presenting new family models to the community, and shaping the future.

"I think I'm giving my kids a different perspective on the world - one which will help them question prejudice and hatred," Bobby concludes.

Anne also feels her parenting is making a contribution to social change. "There is so much homophobia, sexism and racism in our society today that if we don't take it upon ourselves to teach children differently, then we'll be consumed by it. I'm not willing to let that happen.

"I'm adding something to the world that wasn't there before and he's an important part of the future."

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

18 Monday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5:30pm.
Nashville CARES Gay Couples Support Group. 6pm.
Nashville CARES Family Support Group. 6:30pm.
Lambda Group Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 8pm.

19 Tuesday

Nashville CARES HIV Education Support Groups. 7pm.
Al-Anon Meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.
Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC. 8pm.

20 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.

21 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.

Listings

Restaurants & Clubs

Chez Collette
 407 1st Av South
 Nashville
 256-9134

The Jungle
 306 4th Av South
 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
 269-5318

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 Rutledge Hill Tavern
 515 2nd Av South
 Nashville
 256-9682

World's End
 1713 Church St
 Nashville
 329-3480

Organizations

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

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

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

Dates

15 Friday

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

16 Saturday

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

17 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.

22 Friday

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

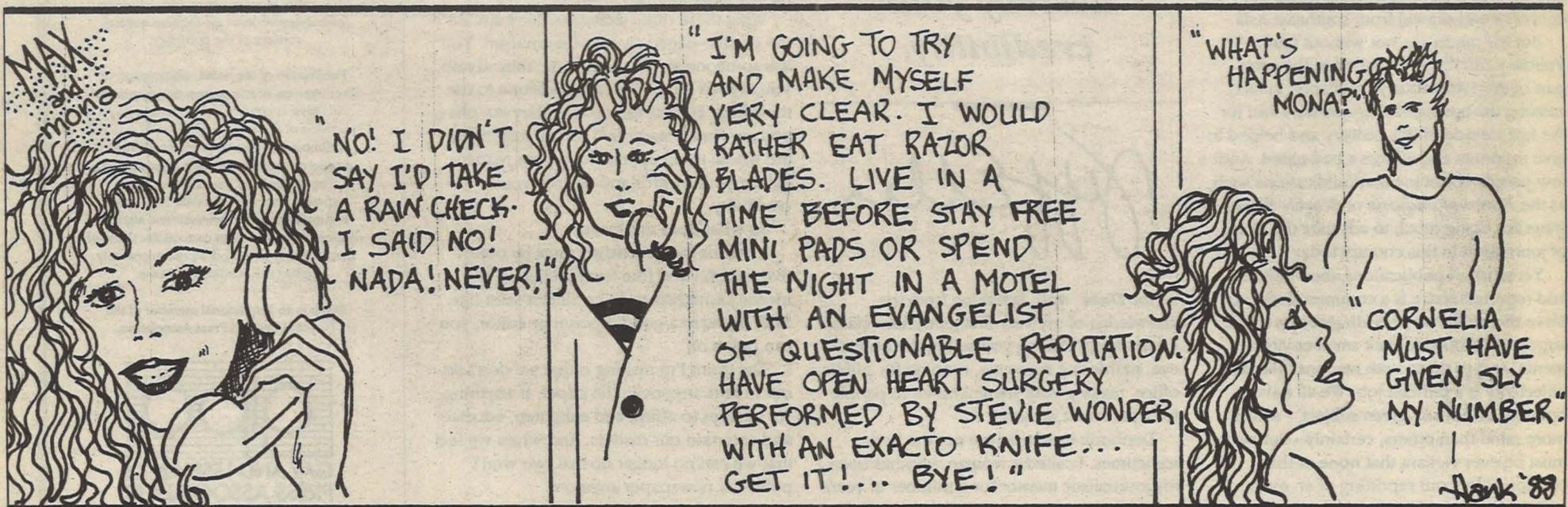
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Max and Mona



Between the Lines

What is "Newsworthy"?

By **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

Throughout the past weeks much heated conversation has centered on the question, "What is newsworthy?"

Most people, sitting in their living rooms reading the newspaper, watching the six o'clock news on television, looking through this week's issue of *Newsweek* or listening to *All Things Considered*, probably give very little thought to what makes something newsworthy. If they read it, see it or hear it, they most likely interpret it as being newsworthy.

For the most part, the American public is lazy. They'll take what you give them at face value. The newsworthiness of a particular story doesn't concern them. Unless, of course, the story is about someone they know personally.

When publishing for a small community - whether it's a small Dekalb County weekly, an in-house newsletter, or a lesbian/gay newspaper - you find out rather quickly that the rules of the news and newsgathering are the same if publishing the *Washington Post* or *Time*. You print the truth objectively and save your opinions for the editorial page.

But when writing for a small community, you find oftentimes that you're sure to step on some toes, no matter how prudent you consider yourself to be.

When that happens, you're put in a precarious situation - you want everyone to like you, but you also must adhere to your journalistic principles and refuse to let public opinion sway your objective stance.

It's not easy.

Many people view news coverage as an invasion of privacy. In some cases, it is that. In most cases, however, it is not. It was scandals that rocked the upper echelons of government. It was the media which called to task our mayor for suspected improprieties. It was the media which gave us excellent coverage of the Vietnam conflict and may have ultimately led to our country's withdrawal from southeast Asia.

But the media are not without fault. Yellow journalism flourished in the latter part of the 19th century (probably, in fact, causing the Spanish-American war) and for the first decade of this century and helped to give reporters and editors a bad name. And few people could say that publications such as the *National Enquirer* or *Weekly World News* are doing much to advance the cause of journalism in this country today.

Yet what all publications, their editors and reporters share is a common desire to serve the public by providing access to the larger world outside their small environments. And to do so with responsibility and objectivity is a difficult job. We all have opinions about any given subject - some more rabid than others, certainly - but we must be ever vigilant that none of that opinion colors our reporting of an event.

Someone asked me a couple of weeks ago how something is deemed newsworthy

What these three examples demonstrate is the double-edged sword of journalism. You ask someone to use their name, they say no, you say "so long." You ask someone to use their story but not their name, they say okay, you say "hello stardom." Or you just make the whole thing up, entertain your readers, collect your awards and destroy your credibility.

Jeff Ellis

by the *Dare* staff. Speaking from the knowledge of my very first journalism class, I answered, "Putting yourself in the public eye, murdering someone, running for public office, making your name known to people for a particular reason."

Textbook examples are not the best sometimes. I called a woman who has been my journalistic mentor for a number of years and posed the same the same question, "What is newsworthy?"

"Names," she answered. "Names are newsworthy. People want to see names of the people who do things, who make the news."

Yet even she, never having worked for a lesbian/gay publication, warned against using someone's name. "If it's central to the story, by all means use it. But be vigilant about overuse of someone's name," she advised me.

At *Dare*, we have a very simple policy. Interviewees have the right to ask that their name not be used. We must then decide if they may be given a pseudonym or be referred to as "undisclosed sources." Or we may decide to leave that person out of the story altogether.

For a recent story, "After the March - Nashville's Coming Out Party," I asked a local activist for an interview about how Nashville's lesbian and gay activism has come out. He asked that his name not be used. Using a pseudonym in that case would have indicated that Nashville activism has not come out of the closet and would have contradicted the point of my story, so I said, "Thanks, but no thanks." Simple enough.

Almost ten years ago, I wrote a story for *Nashville* magazine called "Hustling - The Life and Times of a Male Prostitute." It was pretty racy stuff for Music City in 1979 and the magazine received a lot of complaints from its subscribers. For that story, I gave my subject a pseudonym - to protect his identity and that of his family. Simple enough. And the story won several awards for me.

About that same time, a reporter for the *Washington Post* won a Pulitzer Prize for a story about an eight year old boy of the streets. He was addicted to drugs and came from a hellish home. It was truly a mesmerizing, horrifying story. But soon after her Pulitzer Prize came, the reporter admitted she had made it all up. The boy never existed - except in her imagination. She lost her job and hasn't been heard from since so far as I know. Simple enough.

What these three examples demonstrate is the double-edged sword of journalism. You ask someone to use their name, they say no, you say "so long." You ask someone to use their story but not their name, they say okay, you say "hello stardom." Or you just make the whole thing up, entertain your readers, collect your awards and destroy your credibility.

So what does this mean?

It means that journalists must be objective, truthful and free from prejudice. It means journalists must be almost saint-like. And, if you're a good reporter or editor, you can pull it off.

The point I'm making is that we don't set out to hurt anyone in the paper. If anything, we attempt to affirm and enlighten, educate and entertain our readers. And when we feel that we can no longer do that, we won't publish a newspaper anymore.

Frankly, I think we're going to be around for a long time. Happy reading!

Dare

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

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YOUR HUDDLED MASSES YEARNING
TO BREATHE FREE, THE WRETCHED
REFUSE OF YOUR TEEMING SHORE
SEND THESE, THE HOMELESS,
TEMPEST TOST TO ME, 'CAUSE
IF WISHES WERE HORSES
THEN BEGGARS WOULD RIDE."



Hank '88

Views

Reach Out and Touch Your Mayor.

The games that the mayor's office played with the Pride Week committee are shameful.

There is no excuse for their behavior. A group of law-abiding, tax-paying citizens asked for a simple piece of paper recognizing an event they had planned for months to celebrate their lives and accomplishments, and those of at least one-tenth of the population, and one-tenth of Mayor Boner's constituency.

Now, had the proclamation that Pride '88 asked for been granted, as such proclamations routinely are for other events and celebrations, not much would have been said. The Pride Week committee would have been pleased, those who attended the rally and parade would have heard about it, and those few homophobes who would have been upset by it would most likely never have known it had been issued.

Instead, the mayor's office had to go and make a big deal out of it. By avoiding discussing it, by avoiding answering questions about it, by avoiding those who had asked for it, and finally, by avoiding responsibility for not issuing it, Bill Fletcher (the mayor's press liaison) and Mary McDaniel (the mayor's office manager) played the part of children caught stealing cookies.

They hid from those who tried to call

them to task - the people who pay their salaries and whose interests they are supposed to be looking out for.

It would have been so much easier if they had just said, "No, we don't think it's wise politically for the mayor to issue this proclamation now."

Granted, this would have angered the community, but at least it would have done us the civility of treating us like the responsible, adult citizens and voters we are.

By ignoring the phone calls and letters, by ignoring even the bodies that gathered in the mayor's office to seek an answer to the request, Fletcher and McDaniel have shown that they are irresponsible and unresponsive, that they have no business in public service.

The lies and avoidance are just that.

There's no other way to put their behavior. And such dishonesty is inexcusable.

The people of the lesbian and gay community deserve an explanation. And an apology.

We urge you to phone the mayor's office at 259-6047 and register your disapproval of these tactics. Demand an explanation, and insist that the mayor issue the proclamation recognizing Pride Week '88.

Now, we're not naive. We know there's a good chance that we won't get the proclamation this year, but at least they'll listen next time.

