

Transsexual's Murderer On Trial

Torturer Confesses

By **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

One of the two men accused of beating, torturing and beheading their transsexual housemate in January, 1987, Tuesday admitted in Criminal Court that he was guilty of fatally injuring the woman.

Ralph David Frantzreb testified that he and Kenneth Poole dismembered the body of Michelle Byrne, burying parts of her body and dumping her head and torso into the Cumberland River.

Transsexual Michelle Byrne was beaten and tortured prior to her murder by the two men, Poole's estranged wife had earlier testified.

Cindy Jo Poole told the court the two men attacked Byrne after her apparent failure to make rent payments on time. After that, she testified, the men beat and tortured Byrne while chiding her for being born a man.

"I did not intend to kill her. I did not intend to maim her. I just wanted my money," Frantzreb testified Tuesday.

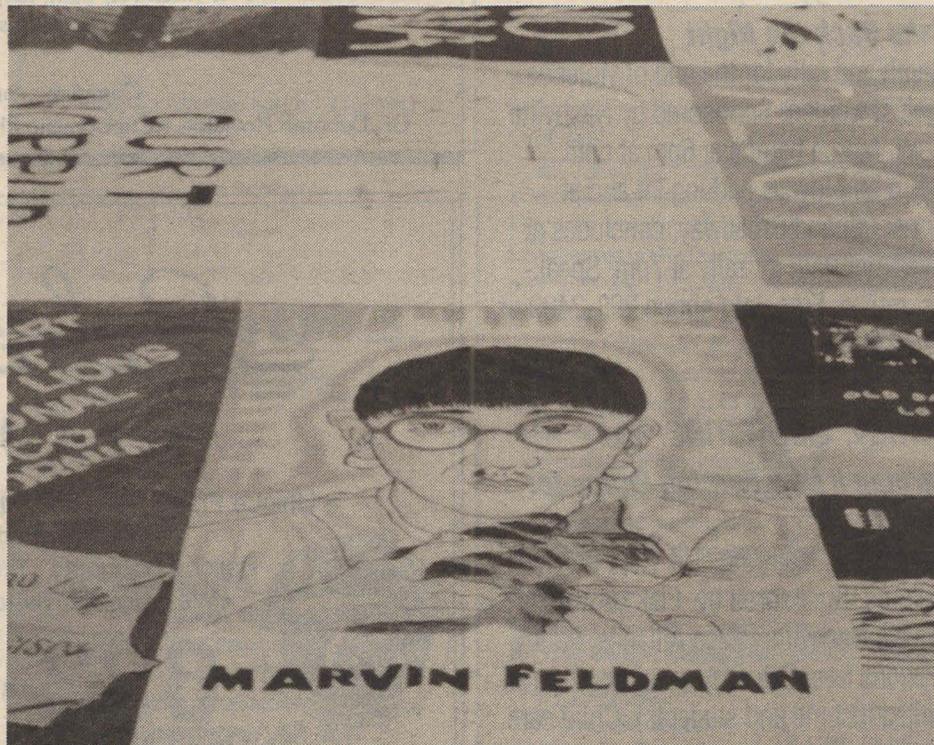
Frantzreb chose to testify about his role in Byrne's death when he learned his sister had turned over to prosecutors a packet of letters he had sent her last summer. Included in the

packet was a letter addressed to Tennessee Gov. Ned McWherter, containing a map of the area where Frantzreb said he and Poole had buried Byrne's hands and feet.

Byrne had asked the Pooles, Frantzreb and their four children to move into her Delmas Avenue duplex after meeting them at the St. Patrick's Catholic Church shelter for the homeless in December, 1986.

Cindy Poole said that Byrne wanted someone to care for her six-year-old son while she was working.

It was in December, 1986, that Byrne first became known to local authorities when her son, Cedric, entered a Gallatin Road restaurant and said he had become frightened at home alone while his mother was at work.



The **NAMES Project National AIDS Quilt**, bearing the names of over 8,000 Americans who have died from AIDS, will return to Washington on the the first anniversary of the historic March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, beginning October 8.

Subsequent investigations revealed that Byrne was being sought on charges of kidnapping the child from Byrne's mother who had legal custody of the child. Byrne spent the first week of January, 1987, at the Metro Jail until it was discovered that the United States extradition treaty with Canada did not extend to parental kidnapping of children.

At that time, according to Cindy Poole's Monday testimony, Frantzreb and Kenneth Poole confronted Byrne about her gender, but she denied being a transsexual.

"She said she had always been a woman," Poole said. However, at a January 12, 1987, hearing, during which Byrne hoped to regain custody of her son from the Tennessee Department of Human Services, her parents testified she had been born

Louis Labonte and had undergone a sex change operation in 1985.

Later that day when Byrne, Cindy Poole and Leah Oliver (another woman who was staying

continued on page 5

Police Look for Killer

By **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

Metro Police are continuing their search for the man suspected of murdering Vernon Lester Larkin in his Hickory Valley area apartment last week.

The Nashville computer operator was found dead last Wednesday after his mother called officials at the Knolls apartment complex, saying she had been unable to reach her son for several days.

Larkin, 30, was found gagged and bound and lying between a cocktail table and a sofa in his blood-spattered apartment around 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 7. He was wearing blue jeans, shirt and boots and apparently had been struck several times with a blunt instrument.

Larkin had last been seen leaving The Jungle, located at Fourth Avenue South, the preceding Sunday with a transient who is now the prime suspect in the slaying.

Police said they are searching for a man with a stocky build who is about 5 feet 11 inches tall, weighing around 180 pounds. He is described continued on page 5

Circle K Denies Health Care Benefits to PWAs

By **DEBORAH BURKS**
Staff Writer

Circle K Corporation, the nation's second largest chain of convenience stores, has come under fire from civil libertarians and AIDS activists as a result of its controversial new insurance plan.

The new plan, effective this past January, excludes health-care benefits for employees whose illnesses are caused by "self-inflicted wounds or lifestyle decisions."

According to the company policy, contracting AIDS through any means other than a blood transfusion would be the result of a "lifestyle decision" and would lead to exclusion from Circle K's health-care coverage.

However, a story in the New York Times of August 11 reported the temporary suspension of Circle K's plan. Karl Eller, chair and chief executive officer of Circle K, said in a statement that "A general misunderstanding of the policy has arisen, and that needs to be clarified."

He also said a company review would focus on "clarification of language and some conditional exclusions."

Meanwhile, gay/lesbian and AIDS activist organizations continued to boycott and zap Circle K stores around the country. Circle K has 4,098 stores in 27 states. The company was the focus of several zaps planned by the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP) at the Republican National Convention in August last month.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Urvashi Vaid said, "Even though Circle K's policy has been suspended (but not reversed), it is important to maintain the boycott of Circle K stores as well as zaps to keep up the pressure on Circle K."

The Atlanta chapter of ACT-UP recently staged two demonstrations at Atlanta-area Circle K stores. In addition to a picket, ACT-UP/Atlanta strategy consisted of sending caravans of vehicles to purchase small quantities of gasoline with large bills. The group succeeded continued on page 5

Frantzreb Verdict

By **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

After only two hours of deliberation, the jury in the lurid transsexual murder trial of Ralph David Frantzreb returned a guilty verdict Wednesday.

Frantzreb, 29, was found guilty of first degree murder and illegal disposing of a body, after two and a half days of testimony.

Key prosecution witness Cindy Jo Poole - whose estranged husband, William Poole, will be tried on the same charges at a later date - said she was pleased with the verdict and lamented her lack of action during the grisly January 12, 1987, slaying of transsexual Michelle Byrne.

"I'm just sorry I didn't have the nerve to get out of that house and call the police," Cindy Poole said as she left the court room after hearing the verdict.

Asked why she did not contact authorities until two months after the brutal attack on Byrne, Poole replied, "Cause I was scared."

Frantzreb, who was given a life sentence, won't be eligible for parole for 17 years. •

INSIDE

Hikes, Dykes, and Nikes? Sociables,
page 4.

Gay Cable Network comes to Nashville.
page 5.

September

Mondays

Nashville CARES

AIDS/ARC Support Group. 6:30pm. HIV Education Support Group. 6pm. Family Support Group. 6:30pm. Info phone 385-1510.

Lambda Group

Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 8pm.

Tuesdays

Vanderbilt Lambda Association

Meeting for gay and lesbian Vanderbilt students, faculty, staff and alumni. Divinity Room G 23. 5:30pm. Info phone 298-9931.

Al-Anon

Open meeting, MCC-Nashville. 6:30pm.

Nashville CARES

HIV Education Support Groups. 7pm. Info phone 385-1510.

Sober Sisters (Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous)

Closed meeting, MCC-Nashville. 8pm.

Wednesdays

Sex Addicts Anonymous Closed meeting for gay men and lesbians. MCC-Nashville. 5:30pm.

Nashville CARES

AIDS/ARC Support Group. 6:30pm. HIV Support Group. 7pm. Info phone 385-1510.

Thursdays

Nashville CARES

HIV Support Group. 6:30pm. Info phone 385-1510.

Alternatives (Alcoholics Anonymous) Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC-Nashville. 8pm.

Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA)

Meeting. 8pm. Info phone 385-4776 or 352-5823.

Fridays

Sexaholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC-Nashville. 5pm.

Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group

Meeting, Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

Saturdays

Nashville CARES

AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4pm.

Metropolitan Community Church-Nashville

Mortgage Meal, all you can eat. 7:30pm. \$5.

Sundays

Manna New Life Church

Worship service, 11am. Info phone 833-8581 or 834-4491.

Metropolitan Community Church-Nashville

Worship services, 11am and 7pm. Info phone 320-0288.

SPECIAL Events

Saturday, September 17

Take Back the Night

March and rally for the end of violence against women. Sponsored by Nashville NOW. March begins at 6pm at both Metro Employees parking lot and at corner 9th and Broadway, concludes at Riverfront Park for rally at 7pm. Speakers, music. Free. Info phone 298-2499 or 226-0217.

Friday, September 23

Forging a New Foreign Policy for the '90s

Conference, featuring U.S. Rep. Ron Dellums. Sponsored by Fisk University and the Nashville Peace Alliance. Friday sessions free, Saturday sessions \$10 (\$5 limited income and students). Child care available. Fisk University. Info phone 327-1840.

Saturday, September 24

Gay Cable Network/Nashville

Premier and celebration. Benefit for the Gay Cable Network/Nashville. Buffet and champagne, Warehouse 28. 7pm. \$3. Info phone 385-9126.

The Hotel Josephine!

Musical comedy about "Mardi Gras in gay New Orleans." Sponsored by Metropolitan Community Church, Huntsville. Von Braun Civic Center Playhouse. 7:30 pm. \$6 donation requested. Info phone (215) 539-4235.

Saturday, October 1

Super Saturday

Voter registration push. Project Vote and Nashville Voters Coalition. Edgehill United Methodist Church, 1502 Edgehill Ave. 9:30am-3:30pm. Free. Info phone 244-4353.

Monday, October 3

Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance

(T-GALA) Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7pm. Free.

The well-adjusted woman.

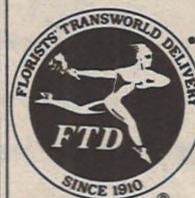
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The write stuff.

Jeff Ellis

Managing Editor

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Kowalski Moved, Will Undergo Competency Testing

By JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Sharon Kowalski this week was moved from the Minnesota nursing home where she has been living for the past three years to a Duluth area hospital for competency testing.

Since 1985, Kowalski has been at the center of a heated legal battle between her lover, Karen Thompson, and her father, Donald Kowalski, to determine who is most fit to be her guardian.

Results of the competency testing are expected by the end of October. The testing was ordered in February by Judge Robert Campbell.

Although Minnesota laws mandate that an adult under guardianship be tested for competency on an annual basis, Kowalski has not been tested in the five years since the automobile accident that has left her wheelchair-bound and mentally impaired.

"I'm glad Judge Campbell is concerned with Sharon, but I want to know why it took so long," Thompson said in a March interview, prior to her appearance at Vanderbilt University's Women's Week.

The court-ordered testing will be carried out by Duluth-area physicians in consultation with Kowalski's court-appointed attorney

Gary Pagliacetti. He told the court last February that he had visited his client and found her able to communicate effectively.

Following the accident involving a drunk driver, Kowalski was severely disabled and Thompson, assistant professor at St. Cloud (Minn.) State University, was forced to admit the nature of their relationship to Kowalski's then-unknowing parents. The Kowalskis took legal steps to prevent Thompson from playing any active role in their daughter's treatment.

Thompson entered into a protracted legal battle with the Kowalskis to protect her lover's right to recovery and to ensure their rights as a couple.

In 1985, Kowalski's father was appointed her legal guardian.

The Thompson-Kowalski case has become widely known in the years since its inception. In August, Sharon Kowalski's birthday was commemorated with fund-raising parties in Nashville and other cities nationwide for the Karen Thompson legal fund.

According to Penny Campbell, one of the Nashville coordinators for the Sharon Kowalski Birthday Party, the CBS news series, West 57th, will present a segment within the next few weeks chronicling the Thompson-Kowalski story. •



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Plans Laid for NCOD

By JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Plans are still under way for the October 11 observance of National Coming Out Day in Nashville.

The day - which will commemorate the October, 1987, March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights - is being viewed as an opportunity for lesbians and gay men to "take the next step," according to Penny Campbell and Gary Bellamy, coordinators for Nashville's observance of the day.

"We're in the process of getting things down pat," Campbell said.

The focal point of the day's activities will be an action involving same-sex couples attempting to secure marriage licenses from the bureau located at the Howard School Building on Second Avenue, South.

"It only costs \$26 to get a marriage license, so we'll find out what else it requires when we get there," Campbell said, indicating that each couple should decide for themselves how to respond to the clerk's reaction to their request.

"We want as many same sex couples as we can possibly get. This is a symbolic gesture, so it's not vital that you be in a committed relationship to do this. We want as many people there as possible to get our point across and to hopefully tie up business for the entire day," she said.

"The involvement in this action can be on many levels of participation," Bellamy added. Later that evening, "a celebration of our

relationships," as Campbell called it, will be held at an as yet undetermined location.

"This day will give everyone an opportunity to take their next step, whatever that may be," she said.

Among suggestions offered for taking the next step are:

- Take a lover/partner home for the holidays.
- Come out to your family.
- Put your lover's picture on your desk at work.
- Consider leaving "The Joy of Lesbian Sex" in your bookcase when mom visits.
- Move your "fantasy" man's poster into a more prominent place in your house.
- Take a straight friend to a lesbian/gay event.
- Tell three people you are gay.
- List your lover/partner as your beneficiary on your employer-provided life insurance policy.
- Use the right pronouns for you lover/partner's gender when mentioning him/her to co-workers.
- Volunteer to be a Big Sister or Big Brother.
- Hold hands publicly.
- Invite gay friends and straight friends to the same party.

Further information about National Coming Out Day-Nashville may be obtained by contacting Campbell at 297-4293 or Bellamy at 889-2665. •

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Dare

Sociables

Hikes, Dykes and Nikes

By JAAN STURGIS
Staff Writer

Where were you a couple of weekends ago when Alan Jewell, Mark Kelley, Rusty Baltz, Michael Holden and company were off to Gatlinburg for a hike to end all hikes? Well, these busy boys were climbing their hearts out (and buns off!) on the Alum Cove Trail.

They spent the night at the LeConte Lodge where llamas brought their food and provisions. (I would have thought I was in Arabia or one of those far-off places!) Just to be different, Alan decided that he would truck down the Rainbow Falls Trail alone the next day. And, yes, you guessed it: he ran into some "wild life." That's all he'd tell me. Hmmm.

And there seems to be a whole throng of newcomers to Nashville lately and among them are Phyllis Hunt and David Nelson—both an eyeful to behold! Phyllis will just be with us for a few weeks as her job—a traveling radiation therapy technologist—takes her all over the country. She's been from Washington, D.C., to St. Petersburg, where her roommate is a female impersonator named Felicia Lane. Isn't there diversity in our community.

Too, she particularly enjoyed her stay in Lancaster and York, Pennsylvania, where she tells me the Amish women and men seem oh-so-straight, but aren't always. Maybe I'd catch a husband if I moved to Pennsylvania. Anyway, Phyllis will be here for a couple of weeks. Let's welcome her to Nashville with a great big "Howdee!"

New on the scene and not on the run (like Phyllis) is David Nelson. Fresh from Dallas, he's been touring around at Opryland (there's a little boy in each of us) and the Country Music Hall of Fame. Originally bound for Murray, Kentucky, some "friends" turned out not to be, so he's landed in Nashville for good. So, boys, let's give him a hearty welcome to the heart of the American South.

Have you been to the West End Cooker lately? Well, dearhearts, I have a favorite waitress there—Melinda Presler. A pert and alert young woman, she swears that my recent lobotomy scars don't even show, although she admits my memory has dimmed a bit. Wonder why? Anyway, she's off to Ft. Lauderdale next weekend. Nuptials were in store for her, but alas and alack, they were cancelled. Instead of going down the aisle with a bouquet of flowers, she'll be walking down the beach with a bottle of vodka. Sounds interesting to me.

For those who know Patricia Lee, she tells me that she's gotten an invitation to a party that will end all parties. One of her friends has said she must go to Philly September 22-24 because there'll be a three-day blowout. Wonder what will be in store?

I was at the Chute on Labor Day weekend. How were the Buckhead Boys? Boring. Boring? Yep. Someone told me he was bored *stiff*.

Well, they did show their stuff to a hooting full house, so *somebody* must have liked 'em.

The East End Fellowship Group associated with MCC-Nashville had a rip-roaring time at the home of James Holland and Bud Blackwell. The prominent—and some not-so-prominent—attendees included Kevin Troxler, Rod Nelson, Jac Gregory, Frank Webb and Ray Ankrum. The social event, held on the second Saturday of each month as a noon potluck for all those who live in East Nashville (yes, even those of us who live on the wrong side of the tracks), continues next month on October 8 at the home of Paul Tucker. If you're an East Nashvillian, why not attend? There were things I heard that I can't tell.

Labor Day was certainly a festive time at the home of Pat Applegate and Laura Tek. They had an informal get-together which Pat terms a Fiesta. The barbecue chicken, yummy salads of assundried variety and scrumptious desserts were enjoyed by Penny Campbell, Devie Levin, recent returnee Abby Rubinfeld and ex-(Nevadan? Nevad-er? Nevadian? Nevadear?) person from Nevada Debra Alberts as well as Deborah Burks, Carole Cunningham and Marianne Osiel. Soon everyone became, ahem, comfortable, with the beverages provided and the talk turned to personal and public politics. I wonder if they would let me come?

Speaking of Laura, on September 25th, she'll be running and competing in the Nashville Women's 5K Classic with 250 other sweaty, scantily-clad folks of similar sex. Could be interesting.

September 24th will see Frank Ashe taking the big bird to Boston for a friend's wedding—the straight variety. Although the guest list numbers only 65, reportedly about half of the attendees will be queens. Victoria, Mary, Elizabeth and Ann among others. The relatives of the couple will be housed in nearby hotels while the queens will be treated, as befits royalty, to a stay with the newlyweds. Frank's first getaway from Nashville in some time—other than to Hopkinsville, Kentucky, to visit a former roommate—his second week of respite will include a visit to P'town. I can hardly wait to hear what happens there!

The Northeast has certainly attracted some of Nashville's finest this summer and fall, because a week later, Steve Jenks is off to Pittsburgh, from whence he'll drive to Provincetown and on to D.C. for the unveiling of the (sadly) much-grown Quilt on Columbus Day weekend.

No more parties to report on this time, but I hear some are coming up. Why not tell me about yours? Better yet, invite me. Ring me up some evening at 226-4034.

Yes, dearhearts, it's time to leave you again. But Sociables will return again in two weeks with all the latest. See you then. •

There oughta be a law.

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Saturday, September 24.

The evening will begin
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benefit party at
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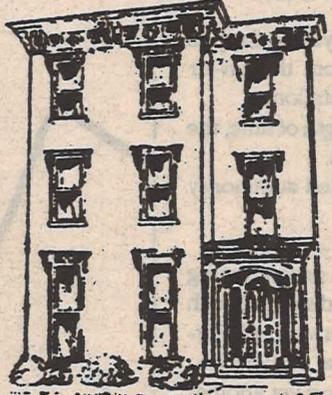
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...Murder tried

continued from page 1

at the East Nashville address) returned to the duplex, they found a note from their landlady, indicating they were three weeks behind in their rent.

When Frantzreb arrived later in the day he accused Byrne of misusing the money he had given her for rent and pushed her through a bedroom window and began to kick her repeatedly, Cindy Poole said.

She said that when she went in to check on Byrne, she was bleeding and moaning, mumbling "in some foreign language that I didn't understand."

According to testimony, Byrne's speaking a foreign language seemed to enrage Frantzreb, who began his attack anew.

Kenneth Poole, upon his arrival, joined in the beating. Despite her suggestion to call an ambulance, Cindy Poole said, the men continued to beat Byrne, who apparently made no effort to defend herself at any time during the attack.

Cindy Poole's grisly account of the beating and subsequent torture - Frantzreb said he plugged in an iron and attempted to burn Byrne's breasts and Kenneth Poole hit her knees, hands and elbows with a hammer - was kept secret for two months.

"We thought we could scare her and maybe we could get our money from her," Frantzreb testified.

In March, 1987, Cindy Poole finally broke her vow of silence and told a neighbor of the terror-filled night when the three - Frantzreb, Cindy and Kenneth Poole - finally decided to call an ambulance, only to discover Byrne was dead.

Cindy Poole said in Criminal Court that the two men beheaded Byrne and cut off her feet and hands. She said they buried the hands and feet, but attached the torso and head to separate cinder blocks and dumped them into the Cumberland River.

Frantzreb testified that he and Poole drove around for some time, drinking beer and trying to decide how to dispose of Byrne's body before driving to a secluded area near the Tennessee Women's Prison. Frantzreb previously had worked as a guard at the Prison.

In March, 1987, Byrne's torso was found floating on the surface of the Cumberland River.

On March 29, 1987, Poole, 24, and Frantzreb, 29, were arrested and have been incarcerated at Metro Jail since then. Cindy Poole was testifying this week in Frantzreb's trial on charges of first-degree murder and unlawful disposal of a body. Her husband will be tried separately on the same charges.

A verdict in the Frantzreb trial is expected shortly. •

...police seek killer

continued from page 1

as having dark hair, dark eyes, a mustache and tatoos on both arms.

The man is also suspected of having stolen Larkin's 1988 dark blue Mustang, with the Tennessee license plate number JXB995.

Last February, Larkin moved into the Knolls apartment complex. He was a computer operator for Kelly Services, a temporary service, and was on assignment to Southwestern Co. on Elm Hill Pike. •

...Circle K denies health care

continued from page 1

in temporarily halting gas sales at the targeted stores.

Circle K's presence in the Nashville market was felt last April following the company's purchase of the local operations of 7-Eleven stores. An unidentified store clerk at the Belmont Boulevard Circle K said he was not aware of the store's policy on insuring people with AIDS.

Diane Easter, ACT-UP/Nashville member, said that although the group has not yet taken action to protest Circle K's policy, plans are being made for zaps of local Circle K stores. •

Briefs

Gay Cable Network Comes to Nashville

From STAFF REPORTS

Gay Cable Network (GCN), Nashville, will premiere on Community Access Television's channel 35 Saturday, Sept. 24, at 8 p.m.

GCN-Nashville that evening will hold its premiere cablecast viewing at a 7 p.m. cocktail party at Warehouse 28, 2529 Franklin Road. The \$3 admission includes a champagne buffet and will help support GCN-Nashville.

The first broadcast will be the cornerstone of programming aimed at the gay community of Nashville. Programs will air weekly on Viacom's Channel 35 from 8 to 9 p.m. each Saturday.

GCN-Nashville will become part of a communication network already proven in major metropolitan markets, including New York City, Los Angeles, Cincinnati and Minneapolis. Begun in 1982, Gay Cable Network has a viewing audience of over 22 million. Locally, GCN-Nashville will be involved in designing programs aimed specifically at local audiences.

Weekly programs will focus on political activities, educational services, telephone help lines, social events, travel, national and local gay organizing efforts and health services.

Further information about GCN-Nashville, or its premiere celebration, is available by calling 385-9126. •

Dare

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

September 16-22, 1988
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Views

Intolerance Leads to Death

Ralph David Frantzreb has been convicted of the grisly murder of Michelle Byrne, and sentenced to life in prison.

The story of that horrible day in January, 1987, has unfolded slowly and agonizingly, until it became clear why Frantzreb and William Poole brutally tortured, murdered and mutilated Byrne.

It wasn't because they were angry about the possibility that Byrne had misappropriated their rent money, as Frantzreb (and undoubtedly Poole) would have you believe.

Is there any doubt that they killed her because they had found out that she was a transsexual?

Their living situation was not average by any means. Here in one household were an apparently single heterosexual woman, a single heterosexual man and a married heterosexual couple and a group of children. It doesn't take much of a leap to imagine that there might have been some sexual tension between Byrne and either or both of the men, if not sexual attraction or even relationships.

When the news came that Byrne was born a man - that she wasn't a "real woman" - homophobia erupted, as is so unfortunately common, into violence.

Such a scenario is not so farfetched, although there is no way to ever know unless one of the murderers comes clean.

But the most important lesson of Byrne's suffering and death is that the hatred is there, and that there is apparently little compunction about venting that hatred against sexual minorities through violence.

From all accounts, Michelle Byrne led a troubled life. She was, no doubt, less than perfect, as are we all. But nothing she did to Poole or Frantzreb could have justified the subhuman torture and the snuffing out of another human life.

Michelle Byrne was a human being - no matter what her sex or gender.

One of her murderers has been sentenced to pay for her death. The Frantzreb jury must be commended for its refusal to let the victim's sexuality become an issue in deciding the fate of her murderer.

We can only hope that the Poole jury will be so just, and that a message will be sent to those who think their hatred justifies violence that their violence will not be tolerated.

May Michelle Byrne rest. •

Don't Lock It In. Just Rip the Knob Off.

Just when you think it's safe to turn your radio back on, you're slapped in the face with yet another homophobic diatribe from the on-air "personalities" at one of Nashville's "leading" FM radio stations.

For those of us who have lived in Nashville for any length of time, the station's call letters have become a new four-letter word.

The definition: mean-spirited, humorless insults hurled at minority groups in general, queers in particular.

The word, the station? WYHY. Y-107.

Truly exemplifying the new, lamentable trend in radio programming - shock radio - Y-107 daily insults its listeners, both gay and straight, with its seemingly uneducated, unfeeling, un-entertaining between-platter-patter, which is no more than sophomoric pseudo-sexual innuendo.

Just last week, a concerned *Dare* reader called to report yet another Y-107 attack on our community. While at work that morning, with Y-107 playing in the background, he had been offended by the tasteless antics of the station's deejay duo, Tom and Tim.

So, too, was another listener who called in to complain about Tom and Tim's homophobic comments. And what did Y-107's on-air "personalities" say to the caller? "You're sick!"

This continuing lack of respect for our community is especially disturbing in view of the fact that "we" are on the inside. Or, at least some of "us" are. WYHY, like any other business, group or organization, has homosexuals on the payroll.

But are our sisters and brothers on the "inside" doing anything to help stop the flow of invectives and insults? Apparently not.

Although they claim to be as offended by the on-air antics as the rest of us, by refusing to speak up they are, by example if not in fact, condoning the reprehensible actions.

Our concerned reader suggested an appropriate response: turning the dial to another station. That's how you hurt radio stations, you see.

If enough people turn the dial, those all-important Arbitron ratings are sure to fall. And as the Arbitrons fall, so do profits. In radio, as in the rest of the world, money talks.

Maybe now it's time for our dollars to speak out against people who speak out against us.

Touch that dial! And hit Y-107 where it hurts. •

Wear me out.

Not everyone has one. If you missed the *Dare* tee shirt first time around, don't blow this chance. The *Dare* tee. Hand-screened and painted in pink and purple on all-cotton tees in L, XL, and XXL, because they'll shrink some. At a measly ten bucks, everyone'll wanna wear one out.

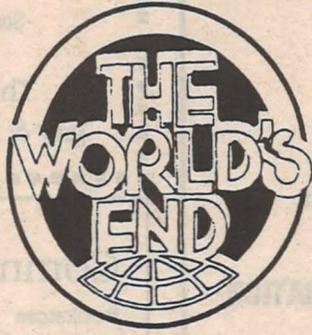
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Briefs

Fresh Fruit is on the Way

From STAFF REPORTS

Self-proclaimed "professional homosexuals," Romanovsky and Phillips will perform in Nashville next month when their *Emotional Rollercoaster* tour brings them to the third coast from their west coast home.

Sponsored by the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA), the concert appearance by Romanovsky and Phillips is set for Sunday, November 6 at 7:30 p.m., according to G. Scott Osten, finance co-chair for T-GALA.

"Over the past five years, Romanovsky and Phillips have made a wonderful name for themselves in the lesbian and gay community nationally," Osten said. "Their music is primarily gay music and it is relevant to our time, politically, as well as socially."

The pair — made up of Ron Romanovsky and Paul Phillips — began their first national tour in fall, 1983, and in the years that have followed have attracted thousands of fans with their performances. Without aspiring to be a comedy team, they developed a reputation among audiences for their lyrics about gay life.

Romanovsky, a Pittsburgh native, began composing songs at the age of 15.

"I was a terrible student. I was more inspired by Phil Ochs than Chopin, so instead of practicing waltzes I wrote satirical songs with catchy titles like 'Ignorant People' and 'Don't

Believe the Bullshit.' My piano teacher was not impressed," Romanovsky remembers.

Phillips, the son of a Baptist preacher, claims to have been destined to be an entertainer.

He attended Wheaton College (Billy Graham's alma mater) and came out at the end of his freshman year: "My mother tried to feign shock and dismay, but I easily saw through her histrionics," he said.

The two men met in San Francisco and began performing as Romanovsky and Phillips some six months later.

They have appeared in some 37 states and have recorded three albums on their Fresh Fruit Records label - *I Thought You'd Be Taller*, *Trouble in Paradise* and *Emotional Rollercoaster*.

"Their music is about AIDS, anti-gay violence, the problems of gay life, but their message is truly a universal one. They make us think; they have a lot to offer us," Osten said.

Tickets to the concert, to be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Woodmont Boulevard, are \$7 and will be available at Mills Bookstore in Hillsboro Village, the Belle Meade office of Dr. Deborah Kowalski, or from Osten at the Nashville CARES office (385-1510) or at home (269-4283). •

Get Ready for Pride '89

From STAFF REPORTS

Planners for Pride Week '89 have already set the date for next year's celebration, according to Penny Campbell of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA).

The third week of June was selected by the Pride Week '89 committee during its first meeting held last Sunday.

The week's festivities, like 1988's celebration, will culminate in a parade, festival and rally.

"We're looking at having the parade, festival and rally later in the day than we did this

year," Campbell said. "We would like to have the celebration continue into the evening, possibly climaxing with a major concert."

This year's parade, rally and festival attracted more than 300 people to the Centennial Park bandshell area for an afternoon filled with activities.

She said the committee, which will next meet Oct. 16, is currently soliciting ideas for a slogan for the weeklong observance of gay and lesbian pride. Ideas may be sent to the Pride '89 Committee at Box 24181, Nashville, 37202. •



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