

## MCC-Nashville Moving Up, East, to Larger Quarters

By **STUART BIVIN**  
Editor

Nashville's Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) is making plans to move into a much larger building.

The Rev. Paul Tucker, MCC pastor, said in an interview this week that the church's present home is too small for all its activities and that it has been put on the market.

"We've approached the church that owns the building, and their pastor is open to talking with us about buying it when the time comes," Tucker said. "They have been ordered by their

denomination to merge with another congregation, but they certainly aren't in any hurry, so we have time to sell our building and conduct a fundraising campaign before we have to make an offer."

MCC has been in its current building at 131 15th Avenue North, which once housed a catering service and a data processing firm, for eight years. Its sanctuary holds about 70 worshippers, although "it's a tight fit, really close quarters," according to Tucker.

The new home would have room for about 250 worshippers, as well as a full-sized fellowship hall beneath the sanctuary and ten classrooms, which MCC intends to make available for meeting and office space for community groups.

"We have always had a very strong commitment to these groups," Tucker said, "and our dream is to be able to provide a sort of community center with affordable space for any group supportive of the lesbian and gay community." The church allows several groups, including a number of addiction-recovery and support groups, to use its facilities at low cost. It also provided office space to Nashville CARES for \$100 a month for the AIDS service organization's first year.

MCC is asking \$75,000 for its current build-

ing, which the church's real estate agent is proposing be sold for use as a catering business or restaurant. The church also seeks to raise an additional \$20,000 for its capital improvements fund in order to lower its mortgage costs. Meeting current mortgage costs has been the focus of the church's Saturday night Mortgage Meals, a Nashville fixture.

"We're sending out a letter to our many friends and supporters, asking them to be generous in helping us to raise the funds necessary to keep our mortgage as low as we can. We've really been encouraged by the support we're getting from the community, including people who are not members of the church," Tucker noted, adding that he believes support is strong because many non-members see the importance of the church's efforts.

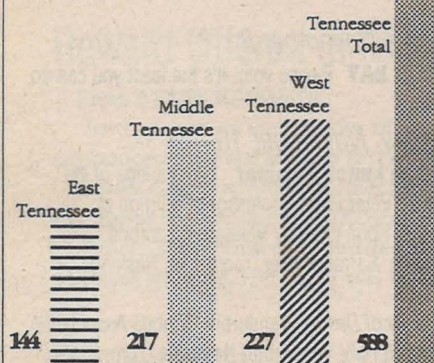
Those who fear that the move will mean an end to the Mortgage Meal need worry no longer: Tucker said that the weekly event will continue as long as the church has mortgage obligations.

MCC, the oldest lesbian and gay-affirmative group in Nashville, held its first service in October, 1972. The church suffered a fire-bombing in 1973, when it was located above the Watch Your Hat and Coat Saloon in Nashville's riverfront area. •



Gertrude Stein (right) and Alice B. Toklas, her lover, feed the pigeons in Venice, Italy, about 1908. Stein, arguably the twentieth century's most famous lesbian, was a pioneer in the modern concept of "lesbian" — a woman who took pride in being a woman who loved women, rather than a woman who tried to be a man. Sherre Dryden explores Stein's approach, page 10. —PHOTO YALE COLLECTION OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

### Tennesseans with AIDS



Almost six hundred Tennesseans had been diagnosed with AIDS as of September 30, 1988. Source, Tennessee Dept. of Health and Environment. —DARE STAFF GRAPHIC

## Wolf Verdict Overturned; New Trial Date Set

By **JEFF ELLIS**  
Managing Editor

Dr. John Stuart Wolf, Jr., will be given a new trial on child molestation charges after a Criminal Court bailiff admitted to an "intimate relationship" with a female member of the jury which earlier had convicted Wolf on one count of aggravated sexual battery.

Criminal Court Judge Ann Lacy Johns, in a written order released Tuesday, said that Jesse Jenkins "who by definition is an extension of the court and therefore the personification of the justice system, engaged in a personal relationship with a juror during a trial."

Johns cited evidence that Jenkins had expressed his opinions outside the courtroom that Wolf was "guilty as hell." She said it was "reasonable to assume" that Jenkins had discussed the case with juror Lesa Wilson during their "private meetings" which took place at the time of Wolf's trial last winter.

Wolf's eight-week-long trial began last Feb. 1, when he was charged on 20 counts, including the rape and fondling of his son, now eight years old, and his daughter, now six, in 1986

and 1987. The 40-year-old physician was found guilty on only one count of aggravated sexual battery of his son.

Defense attorneys argued during that trial that Wolf's ex-wife, Helen Elizabeth (Libby) Polk Wolf, had "programmed" the children to make false accusations against their father. Mrs. Wolf's actions were attributed to her award of less than half of the money she sought in the couple's 1986 divorce trial.

During Wolf's trial on the molestation charges, prosecutors repeatedly attempted to introduce evidence of his homosexual involvement with adults. Defense attorneys argued that Wolf's sexual activities with adults had no bearing on the child molestation case.

Wolf has steadfastly refused to admit to a homosexual orientation.

The personal relationship between the Criminal Court bailiff and the juror was made public by Wolf's attorneys, Lewis Conner and Lee Davies, on August 9 when they filed a motion for a new trial.

Initially, both Jenkins and Wilson denied the continued on page 4

## Caller Harasses Midstate Lesbians

By **SHERRE DRYDEN**  
Entertainment Editor

Nashville lesbians have been the object of a harassing telephone caller. The caller, evidently a local man who may be a Vanderbilt student, says that he seeks sexual dominance from lesbians.

The caller has phoned activists asking for sexual humiliation, claiming to be a regular reader of the Nashville Women's Alliance's *A Newsletter*.

South Central Bell's Telephone Security Office advises that anyone receiving such calls report them, noting the time and date of the call. Telephone Security can be reached at 1-557-1050. Although not an "800" number, the call is free.

A SCB spokesperson, who gave no name in keeping with company policy, reminded those who get obscene or harassing calls not to, under any circumstances, give the caller their name or address. SCB advises those who receive such calls to hang up immediately, and to report the call to SCB.

Both Tennessee and Federal law prohibit obscene and harassing phone calls, imposing penalties of up to one year in prison and/or fines of up to \$1000. •

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## Dates

### Mondays

#### Nashville CARES

AIDS/ARC Support Group. 6:30pm. HIV Education Support Group. 6pm. Family Support Group. 6:30pm. Info phone 615 385-1510.

#### Lambda Group

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

#### MAGNET (Married and Gay Network)

New group for married gay men. 1st & 3rd Mondays only. MCC-Nashville. 8pm. Info phone 615 320-0288.

### Tuesdays

#### Vanderbilt Lambda Association

Meeting for gay and lesbian Vanderbilt students, faculty, staff and alumni. Vanderbilt Divinity School, Room G 23. Nashville. 5:30pm. Info phone 615 298-9931.

#### AI-Anon

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

#### Nashville CARES

HIV Education Support Groups. 7pm. Info phone 615 385-1510.

#### 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 Couples Support Group. 5:30pm. AIDS/ARC Support Group. 6:30pm. HIV Support Group. 7pm. Info phone 615 385-1510.

#### MTSU Lambda Association

Meeting for lesbian and gay Middle Tennessee State University students, faculty, staff, and alumni. 7pm. Info phone 615 893-2589.

### Thursdays

#### Nashville CARES

HIV Support Group. 6:30pm. Visualization group. 6:30pm. Info phone 615 385-1510.

#### Alternatives (Alcoholics Anonymous)

Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC-Nashville. 8pm.

#### Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA)

Meeting. 8pm. Nashville. Info phone 615 385-4776 or 615 352-5823.

### Fridays

#### Sexaholics Anonymous

Closed meeting, MCC-Nashville. 5pm.

#### Gay Parents Support Group

Meeting, MCC-Nashville. 7pm. Info phone 615 292-0817.

#### Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group

Meeting, Belmont United Methodist, Nashville. 7:30 pm.

### Saturdays

#### Nashville CARES

AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4pm. Info phone 615 385-1510.

#### Metropolitan Community Church-Nashville

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

#### Gay Cable Network

Cablecast, Nashville Viacom Channel 35 (Community Access Television). 8pm.

### Sundays

#### Manna New Life Church

Worship service, 11am. Nashville. Info phone 615 833-8581 or 615 834-4491.

#### Metropolitan Community Church-Nashville

Worship services, 11am and 7pm. Info phone 615 320-0288.

## SPECIAL Events

### Saturday, November 5

**Super Saturday Returns** Get-out-the-vote program. Distribute reminders to newly-registered voters. Sponsored by Nashville Voters Coalition. Meet at Edgehill United Methodist Church, 1501 Edgehill Ave, Nashville. 10am.

**Benefit Party** *An Artrageous Evening* Six Nashville art galleries open their doors to benefit local AIDS service organizations. Food, drink, and special entertainment. Transportation available on the Arts Bus. \$35. Info phone 615 255-8895. 6:30-10pm.

### Sunday, November 6

#### Black and White Men Together (BWMT)

Meeting. Memphis. Info phone 901 327-3753, 901 726-1461 or 901 452-5894.

**Concert** *Romanovsky & Phillips*, "the gay Smothers Brothers," with Marianne Osiel. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. Sponsored by Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA). \$7. 7:30pm. Info phone Scott Osten, 615 385-1510 or 615 269-4283.

### Monday, November 7

#### Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA)

Monthly meeting. Panel discussion "What It Means to be a Faerie," featuring six members of the Radical Faerie movement from Short Mountain. Towne House Tea Room, 165 8th Ave North, Nashville. 7pm. Free. Info phone 615 297-4293.

### Tuesday, November 8

**ELECTION DAY** Please vote. It's the least you can do.

### Thursday, November 10

#### Brownbag Lunch Seminar

*Gay Victims of the Holocaust*, Peter Haus, professor of religion at Vanderbilt. Sponsored by Vanderbilt Lambda Association. Sarratt Center, room 118, Nashville. Noon. Free.

**Film** *Law of Desire*, Vanderbilt Lambda Association. 220 Garland Hall, Vanderbilt, Nashville. 7pm. \$1 donation.

#### Empowering Women: Yesterday, Today,

**Tomorrow** Margaret Cuninggim Lecture by Matina Horner, President of Radcliffe College. Vanderbilt University Underwood Auditorium, Nashville. Sponsored by Vanderbilt Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center. 8pm. Free. Info phone 615 322-4843.

### Sunday, November 13

**Feminist Book Circle** Meeting. Discussion of *Going Out of Our Minds*, by Sonia Johnson. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. 5-7pm. Free. Info phone 615 298-9931.

### Thursday, November 17

**Lecture** *Supporting Healthy Sexuality*, author Ellen Bass. Sponsor: Gay Women's Social Group. YWCA, 766 South Highland St, Memphis. Refreshments. \$5. 7:30pm. Info phone 901 324-6949.

**Film** *Maurice*, Vanderbilt Lambda Association. 220 Garland Hall, Vanderbilt, Nashville. 7pm. \$1 donation.

### Monday, November 28

**Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC)**. Open meeting. 689 Melrose, Memphis. 7pm. Info phone 901 458-AIDS.

Your nonprofit event can be listed free in *Dares*. 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.



## ...Wolf verdict overturned

continued from page 1

allegations, but during a hearing in Johns' courtroom on Oct. 11, Jenkins admitted he and Wilson had "six or seven" private assignations during Wolf's trial.

Courthouse sources report that Wolf's attorneys first learned of the "intimate relationship" between Jenkins and Wilson when another juror, disgruntled because Jenkins refused to lend her money, came to them with news of the affair.

After the hearing in her courtroom, Johns ruled that Wolf's attorneys had presented sufficient evidence to indicate an "intimate relationship" had existed between the bailiff and the juror.

Assistant District Attorney General Richard Fisher presented four jurors during another

hearing in an attempt to show that the relationship between Jenkins and Wilson had no bearing on the verdict.

Johns ruled Tuesday, however, that "the state has not, and cannot, refute the evidence of such prejudice."

The Wolf case was placed back on Johns' court docket for Nov. 18 "to obtain a new trial date or disposition date."

Johns refused to assign the Wolf case to another judge despite a motion filed last week by Wolf's attorneys.

In a separate order denying defense counsel's request that she recuse herself, Johns said, "It has been the practice of defense counsel in this case to renew arguments and objections repeatedly and most of this motion is simply another example of that practice." •

## Briefs

### Court Awards Custody to Gay Father with AIDS

From **STAFF REPORTS**

In a major victory for people with AIDS and for lesbian and gay parents, a gay man with AIDS has won custody of his nine-year-old son in the first decision of its kind in the country.

The decision to award Artie Wallace, 32, custody of his son, Shawn, came early this summer, but announcement of the ruling was delayed to allow time to test the arrangement.

Wallace was represented in court by civil rights attorney Roberta Achtenberg after the FBI found Shawn and his mother, Julia Wallace, a fundamentalist Christian, hiding in Arizona eight months after their disappearance.

The boy's mother was granted liberal visitation, but Shawn will live with his father and his father's lover.

The ruling calls for a review of the case at the end of 1989 to test Wallace's ability to care for the child. •

### Reward Offered in Murder of Lesbian Columnist

From **STAFF REPORTS**

In response to the murder of *Seattle Gay News* columnist Serena Willers, the paper has announced the creation of a reward fund for information leading to an arrest.

*Seattle Gay News* editor in chief George Bakan said the paper has pledged \$500 to start the fund but hopes to raise some \$4,000 in pledges from Seattle businesses and organizations.

Willers, a lesbian activist and frequent columnist, died of stab wounds May 18, apparently after a violent struggle. Her body was found in her Seattle office. •

### Swindall Tries to Link Opponent, Les/Gay Community

From **STAFF REPORTS**

Embattled U.S. Rep. Pat Swindall (R-Georgia) last week during a debate with Democratic opponent Ben Jones displayed an enlargement of a classified ad from *Southern Voice*, a gay and lesbian newspaper, in an apparent attempt to link Jones to the homosexual community.

The debate, held Oct. 10, focused national media attention on the 4th District Congressional race, which has been labeled one of the "dirtiest" in the nation.

Jones said he had not previously seen the ad, which was placed by Atlanta activist Cathy Woolard to solicit gay/lesbian volunteers to staff the Ben Jones phone bank on Oct. 18.

"But for someone who is as homophobic as you are, I can understand why you'd do this," Jones said to Swindall.

"I disagree with that community on a number of issues but...I don't think what you do or what anybody does in the privacy of their home is any of my business. And I appreciate the support of any American," Jones said.

Swindall, the incumbent in Georgia's 4th district, is currently under indictment for perjury after lying in court about accepting illegal funds. •

### Kowalski Lawyer Withdraws

From **STAFF REPORTS**

Donald Fena, attorney for Donald Kowalski, has withdrawn from the Sharon Kowalski guardianship battle. According to Sue Wilson, attorney for Sharon Kowalski's lover Karen Thompson, Fena withdrew less than a month after a personal injury suit against the driver who hit Kowalski was settled.

Fena has been responsible for repeated postponements of competency testing for the injured Kowalski. Thompson, a professor at St. Cloud State University, has sought legal guardianship since Kowalski's parents denied her visitation rights upon learning the two were lesbians. •

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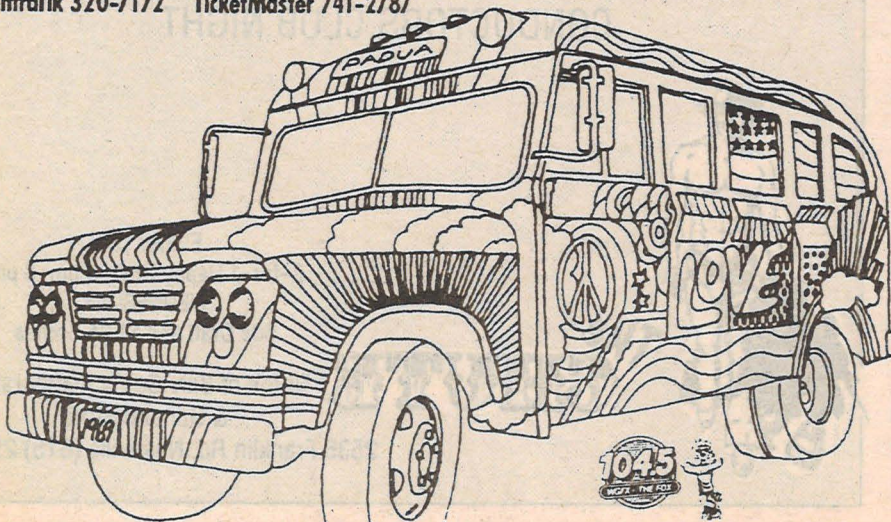
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**Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC)**  
Box 40389, Memphis 38174  
901 458-AIDS or 24-hr 901 762-8401

**American Gay Atheists/Memphis**  
Box 41371, Memphis 38174

**American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)**  
Hedy Weinberg, Director  
Box 120160, Nashville 37212  
615 256-7028  
Lesbian & Gay Anti-Violence Hotline  
615 256-7028

**Black and White Men Together**  
Box 41773, Memphis 38174  
901 327-3753 or 901 452-5894 or 901 726-1461

**Conductors**  
Box 40261, Nashville 37204

**Feminist Book Circle**  
Box 120372, Nashville 37212  
298-9931

**Gay and Lesbian Parents  
Coalition, Inc., of Memphis**  
Box 40982, Memphis 38174

**Gay Alternative** (radio show)  
Box 41773, Memphis 38174

**Gay Athletic Association**  
Box 22914, Memphis 38122  
901 744-7312

**Gay Cable Network/Nashville**  
Box 22011, Nashville 37202  
615 254-8250

**Gay Women's Social Group**  
901 324-6949

**Human Response Council**  
901 275-3536

**Kinship** (Seventh Day Adventists)  
Box 171135, Memphis 38187  
901 754-6160

**Memphis Center for Reproductive Health**  
1462 Poplar Ave, Memphis 38104  
901 274-3550

**Memphis Gay Coalition**  
Box 3038, Memphis 38173  
901 324-GAYS

**Memphis Lambda Center**  
241 North Cleveland, Memphis  
901 276-7379

**Metropolitan Community Church**  
131 15th Av North, Nashville 37203  
615 320-0288

**Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite**  
Box 41822, Memphis 38174

**Nashville CARES**  
Santee Potter, Director  
Box 25107, Nashville 37202  
615 385-1510  
AIDS Crisis Line  
615 385-AIDS

**Nashville Women's Alliance**  
Box 120834, Nashville 37212  
615 366-0555

**National Organization for Women**  
Box 40982, Memphis 38104  
Box 120523, Nashville 37212

**Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays  
(P-FLAG)**  
Box 172031, Memphis 38187  
901 761-1444

**Phoenix** (Gay AA)  
901 272-9549 or 901 276-7379 or 901 454-1414

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

**Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Task Force  
(TGLTF)**  
Box 24446, Nashville 37202

**Tennesseans Keeping Abortion Legal and  
Safe (TKALS)**  
Box 120871, Nashville 37212  
615 297-8540

**The Personals** (computer bulletin board)  
901 274-6713

**Tsarus** (Leather-Levi Club)  
Box 41082, Memphis 38174

**Vanderbilt AIDS Project**  
Suite CCC5319 Medical Center North  
Vanderbilt University, Nashville 37232  
615 322-AIDS or 615 322-2252

**Vanderbilt Lambda Association**  
Box 121743, Nashville 37212

**Wings**  
(Leather-Levi Club)  
Box 41784, Memphis 38174

**Women of Leather**  
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### The Office

130 Franklin St, Clarksville  
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### Pipeline

1382 Poplar Av, Memphis  
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### Ralph's

515 2nd Av South, Nashville  
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### Tom's Place

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### Victor/Victoria's

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615 244-7256

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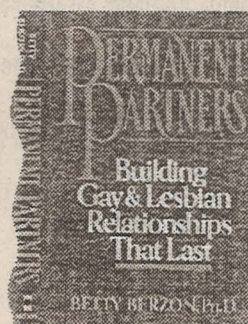
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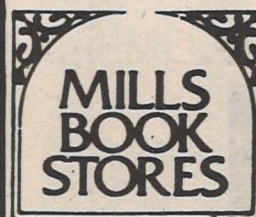
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## Spotlight

### Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC)

Box 40389, Memphis 38174  
901 458-AIDS or 24-hr 901 762-8401

The Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC) was Tennessee's first AIDS organization, according to president Tom Stewart, as well as the first to open housing for people with AIDS (PWAs). The group meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 689 Melrose in Memphis, and provides a wide range of volunteer-supported services.

ATEAC has organized support groups for HIV positives, PWAs, PWARCs and friends. "We don't have a grieving group because there hasn't really been much call for one," Stewart said. "But if things keep going like they have been, we'll need to provide one," he added, noting that Memphis AIDS-related deaths have increased dramatically in the last few weeks.

ATEAC also provides community education and safer-sex packs as well as buddy services for PWAs. The group has one paid part-time staffer, but relies upon its volunteer force to serve an average of 40-45 PWAs and PWARCS at any given time. •

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# FAG HAGS

## Women Who Love Men Who Love Men

By **JEFF ELLIS**  
Managing Editor

Fag hags. Fruit flies. Beards. Girlfriends.  
Swans.

No matter what you call them, they've been  
around forever.

Since Lot's wife asked the two guys next  
door for a cup of salt.

Since socialite Babe Paley asked Truman  
Capote to accompany her to Corfu.

Since last Saturday night when the danger-  
ously trendy girl-next-door called her friend  
Bob and asked him what she should wear to  
the Warehouse.

Women who love men who love men.

And although they've been the targets for  
epithets and insults, most straight women who  
have gay friends think, for the most part at  
least, that the advantages of friendship far  
outweigh the harsh words of bigots.

"When I was an undergrad, a lot of my  
friends were gay. A lot of my friends were  
straight. And they didn't always mix," said  
Aurora Daniels, a graduate student at Middle  
Tennessee State University. "Some people  
couldn't understand why I would rather spend  
my nights dancing with some 'queer' at the  
Warehouse than fighting off the advances of  
some straight guy."

When those friends failed to realize that  
friendship goes beyond the barriers of color or  
sexual orientation, Daniels said she was called  
some "not-so-nice names."

"God forbid I should have a friend who was  
both black and gay. They'd have had a field  
day," she said.

Still and all, Daniels thinks she made the  
right decision when it came to forging friend-  
ships during her undergraduate years.

"One of my best friends is gay. He and I have  
been friends for going on ten years. When I  
need to talk to someone, he's always been  
there for me and I've tried to be there for him  
when he's needed me. It's a friendship I don't  
expect to end," she said.

For Faye Hale, an official with a Washing-  
ton-based international labor union, friend-  
ships formed with gay men while in college  
have outlasted many "straight" friendships  
made during the same time.

"I guess it's because coming out is such a  
difficult and emotional experience. When a  
gay man comes out to a straight woman, it will  
usually make or break the friendship. Luckily,  
for me, those coming out experiences have  
strengthened my friendships," Hale said.

"Just the other day a friend told me she's a  
lesbian and I basically told her that I could  
handle it as long as she could handle me being  
a heterosexual," she said. "If someone can't be  
friends with you because of your sexual orien-  
tation, then you don't need them."

Perhaps the most important ingredient in a  
successful relationship, Hale said, is honesty.  
In a straight woman/gay man relationship,  
honesty is definitely the best policy.

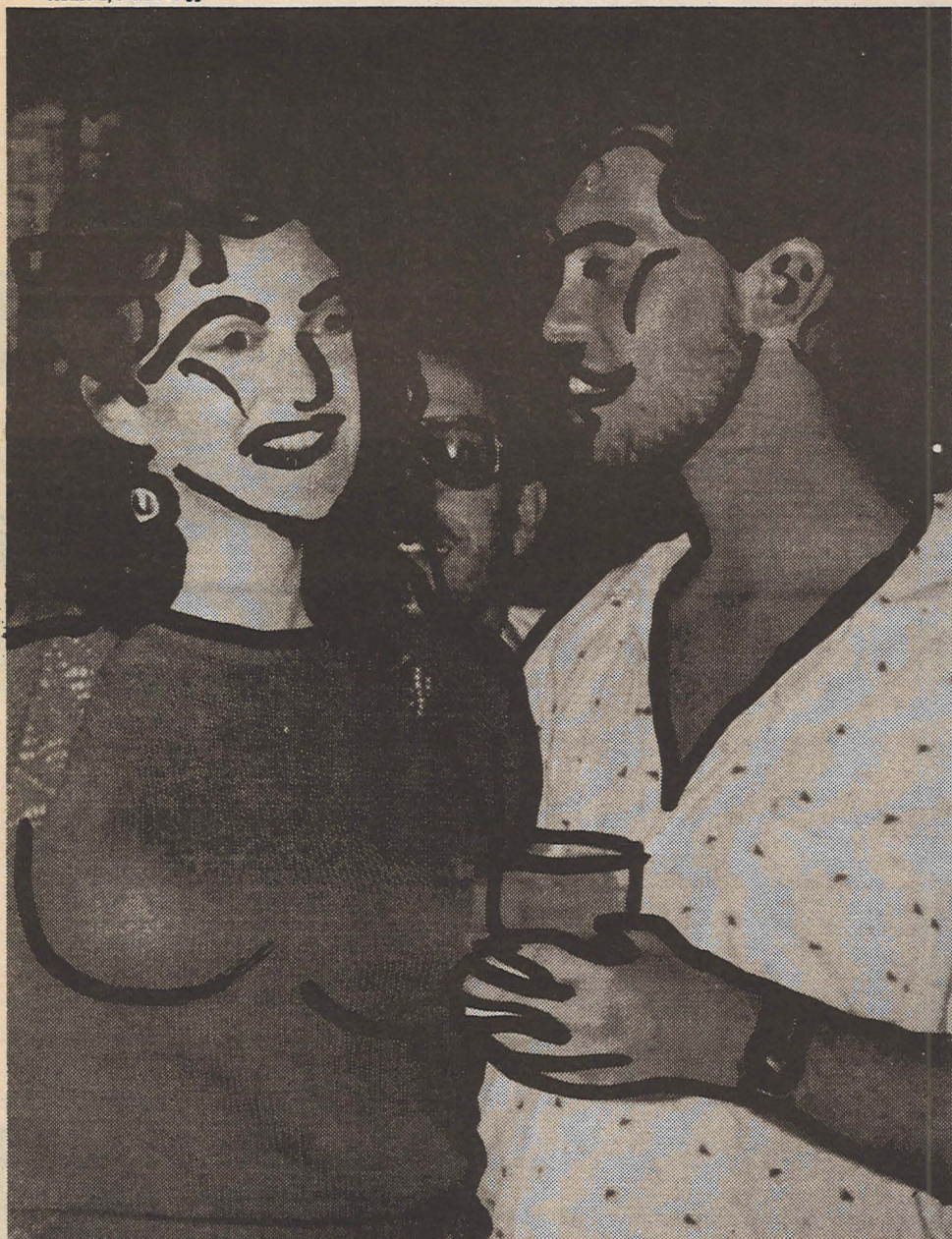
"I know it's difficult to go to someone and  
come out to them. I've been on the receiving  
end and it's tough," she said. "But if that person  
is worth knowing and being in your life, then  
they're worth telling the truth about your sexual  
orientation."

But do straight women select gay friends  
simply because they're gay?

Not according to Daniels and Hale.

"I'm not sure I ever think about a person's  
sexual orientation when I first meet them, so it  
doesn't have anything to do with whether or





not we become friends," Daniels said.

Hale agreed: "I didn't pick any of my friends because they are gay and I'm sure they didn't pick me because I'm straight.

"Besides, I don't have gay friends. I have friends who are gay."

Nancy Griswold, a counselor at Nashville Tech, also rejected the notion that straight women are attracted to gay men because of the stereotypical images associated with them.

"I think of friends who are gay as simply friends. I don't categorize them and certainly sexual orientation is no big deal," Griswold said. "If they have a sense of humor and a kind heart, then they are friends."

Griswold said that when a close friend told her about his sexual orientation, she wasn't shocked or offended. Rather, she was concerned.

"I was a little surprised and I was saddened because I thought, 'Oh great! He'll have to deal with a lot of hardships.' I didn't want him to go through that," she said.

But is it true that straight women prefer the company of gay men because of their flair for fashion and expertise with eye makeup?

"I'll admit I've asked gay friends their advice about clothes or makeup or hair, but not because they're gay. I've asked because they have good taste," Hale said. "Gay men have a keen eye for fashion and are basically honest when I ask them questions like that."

Griswold said any questions regarding "good taste" were directed to a gay friend "simply because he has good taste and I respect his opinion."

For Memphian Sherry Andersen, friendships with gay men have resulted from a "sense of style" she attributed to the men. But among

all the women asked about straight woman/gay man relationships, she's probably the one most burned by the experience.

Two failed love affairs and one engagement later, though, she's not bitter.

"Because of my work as a fashion buyer, I've always had a lot of gay friends. Once I fell in love with someone and found out he was gay later. It hurt, but I got over it.

"Some months later I became friends with another gay man and despite my better judgment, I found myself falling in love with him," Andersen said.

Despite her past experiences, Andersen became more deeply involved with the man and after several months, the two became engaged. When the man fell for another man, however, the engagement ended and Andersen was left to pick up the pieces.

"I was really stupid to fall for someone I knew was gay, but I just couldn't help myself. I loved him, pure and simple," she said.

But after the relationship ended, Andersen set about pulling herself together.

"Things are much better now. I was bitter for a long time, but now that's all behind me. And I have several gay friends. There's no resentment left," she said.

And so it goes.

It will probably go on as long as the Manhattan socialite asks a charming young man to escort her to the Milk Fund Ball.

And as long as the Belle Meade housewife calls her decorator her "best friend."

And as long as trendy girls-next-door seek the fashion advice of their bar-hopping friends named Bob and Kyle. •

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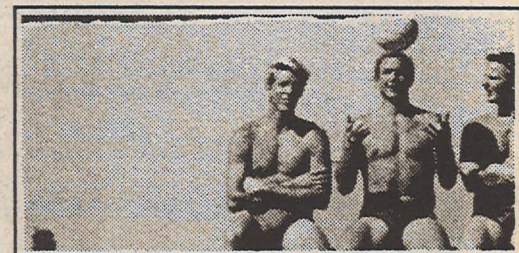
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John Bridges talks about

# Artrageous Evening



John Bridges

By **STUART BIVIN**  
Editor

John Bridges can't sit still and talk about Artrageous.

Mention the subject and he's in motion. It's obviously something that he's enormously pleased with and thrilled to be a part of. And in his case, it's something he's a major part of.

An Artrageous Evening is a now-annual event that combines the fun and food of a gallery opening with the serious business of raising badly-needed money for Nashville AIDS organizations.

It all began at a Nashville CARES resource-development committee meeting. Bridges recalls that there was a lot of discussion about ways to raise money for the often-strapped organization, but not many solid ideas. Then someone suggested an art auction. That was the key: the art community had certainly lost its share of friends to AIDS, both nationally and locally. But not another auction. This time, why not do something different, something that could be a bit of a celebration of life?

Bridges covered the arts in Nashville for the Tennessean for several years. He had the

contacts, and he knew that galleries often hosted celebrations for the opening of new shows.

The trick was in getting the events coordinated for a concerted effort. As he had anticipated, Bridges found gallery owners elated at the prospect of being able to help.

"We were able to turn five parties into one big party," Bridges said. "We expected to raise \$5000 or so, and, more important, to raise awareness about this terrible disease and the about the needs of the people who have it."

Instead of \$5000 and a little awareness, the first Artrageous evening last fall netted around \$32,000 and a huge media splash for AIDS organizations in middle Tennessee. More than 1400 people turned out for the first one, and this year organizers expect even more.

In fact, the organizers hope that the event doesn't get too much larger. "When you have 1500 people coming through a gallery in one night, it can be a real zoo," Bridges said. "We get a marvelous mix of people, and everyone has a great time because we get all kinds of people here — black and white, straight and gay. It's a way for all these different kinds of

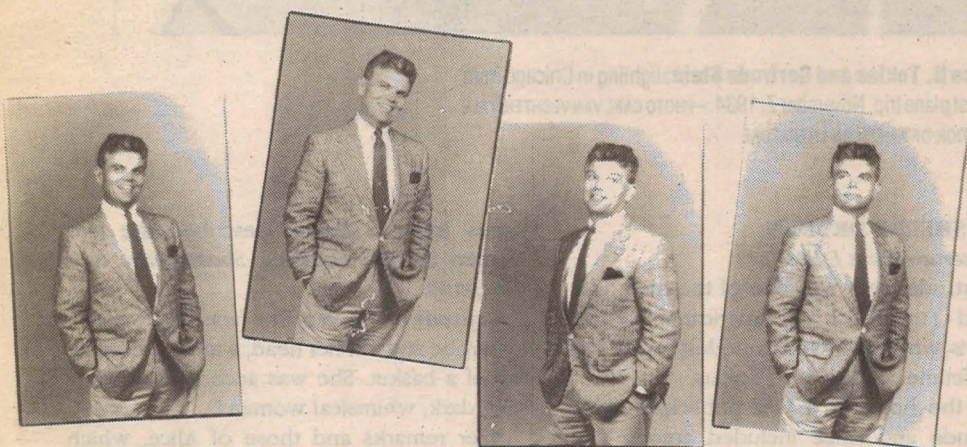


# Artrageous Evening

evening

Artrageous

AN AIDS BENEFIT



people to acknowledge their diversity, to come together to do something really important.

"And it's very relaxed and kind of 'anything goes' – not stiff and formal, and it's not a \$100 a person event.

"That's intentional. We didn't want to make it so expensive that people couldn't participate. We realized that even thirty-five dollars can be a sacrifice for some, so we stayed away from really expensive tickets.

"It's an unpretentious party. We found that, if you invite enough people who are fun, they will make the party," he said.

And that wide-welcome approach is helping ticket sales pick up steam. Bridges noted that revenues are running at over \$1000 a day the last two weeks – more than \$2500 Wednesday alone. "Last year we made as much on the day of the event as we had up to that point. We expect the same thing to happen again," he added, predicting a turnout of 1800 people.

How much will Artrageous raise this year?

There are a number of underwriters this year who have donated money, goods and services that will help keep expenses low. Bridges

noted that last year's receipts of \$35,000 helped the group write checks to AIDS organizations for \$32,000. That means that 90% of the admission event-goers pay will be turned over to the AIDS organizations, an amazingly high rate by anyone's standards.

Still, Bridges wants to better last year's total. "Fifty [thousand dollars] would be a dream," he said.

Bridges got a little misty when he talked about why he devotes so much time and effort to Artrageous – even though he pooh-poohed the idea that it's any trouble.

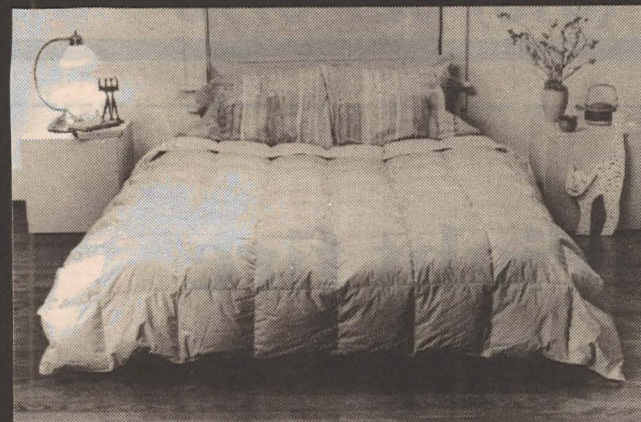
Apologizing in advance for being "sappy," he remembered a friend telling him, "I just wanna do something so God won't let me catch it."

That story, he said, brought home to him the desperation and frustration people feel about AIDS.

"We just want, in the middle of all the hopelessness, to celebrate something – life – and to make a little spark in the darkness. I mean, if you don't do something, all you can do is despair." •



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be something quite a bit less than compassionate.

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A third of the proceeds from this special issue  
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in their efforts to educate and to serve, in the hope  
that one day soon, their efforts will  
no longer be necessary.

**Dare**

# LESBIAN PARIS:



*Gertrude  
Stein*

Alice B. Toklas and Gertrude Stein alighting in Chicago from  
their first plane trip, November 7, 1934. —PHOTO CARL VAN VECHTEN/YALE  
COLLECTION OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

By **SHERRE DRYDEN**  
*Entertainment Editor*

Gertrude Stein was one of the most celebrated of the British and American expatriates in Paris, where she lived in modest luxury with her lifetime partner Alice Toklas.

As the hosts of a well-publicized salon, Gertrude and Alice included among their friends and acquaintances most of the great (and near-great) artists, writers, composers, critics and publishers of the time.

Gertrude arrived in Paris in 1907 to take up residence with her brother Leo. Their home became the mecca for visiting tourists and artists of all nations who wanted to see modern art. New Yorker columnist Janet Flanner said Gertrude's collection "practically ranks as one of Paris' private modern museums."

According to Morrill Cody, "Leo and Gertrude seemed to live in harmony until Alice came along."

Alice was, of course, Alice B. Toklas, a 30 year old woman from San Francisco whom Gertrude met in 1907. Cody calls their meeting "love at first sight."

"It was a long time before they acknowledged their love to each other, however," Cody continues, "and an even longer time before Alice moved into the apartment. But almost from the beginning Alice spent most of her time there, typing Gertrude's manuscripts every morning and in the afternoons and evenings helping with the entertaining of visitors, or taking long walks around Paris with her."

Sylvia Beach, owner of the Paris bookshop Shakespeare and Company and publisher of

James Joyce's *Ulysses*, described the two women in her memoirs, *Shakespeare and Company*:

Gertrude had "a very fine face, stout, wore a long robe and, on her head, a most becoming top of a basket. She was accompanied by a slim, dark, whimsical woman."

"Her remarks and those of Alice, which rounded them out, were inseparable. Obviously they saw things from the same angle, as people do when they are perfectly congenial. Their two characters seemed to me quite independent of each other. Alice had a great deal more finesse than Gertrude. And she was grown up: Gertrude was a child, something of an infant prodigy.

"Gertrude had so much charm she could often, though not always, get away with the most monstrous absurdities...her aim was usually to tease somebody."

Gertrude and Alice remained together until Gertrude's death, 40 years later.

We've been taught to think of Gertrude Stein and Alice Toklas in terms of husband and wife, masculine and feminine, male and female. Given the evidence that in their private lives Gertrude and Alice didn't subscribe to such role playing, feminist critics suggest that Gertrude's public "mannish" persona was no accident.

Shari Benstock, writing in *Women of the Left Bank*, contends that Gertrude's "perverse" literary style was intimately allied to her sexual identity; that her lesbianism was itself a motivating force for her investigation into language. Gertrude developed a deviant, coded





Alice B. Toklas singing her favorite song, "On the Trail of the Lonesome Pine" at Bilignin in the summer of 1937.

—PHOTO W.G. ROGERS/YALE COLLECTION OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

language that echoed her personal deviance from societal norms of female behavior.

By taking the public male role—cutting her hair short, electing to converse with male writers while sending their wives off to talk recipes with Alice, playing the "husband" to Alice's "wife"—Gertrude may be hinting that we should read her words as though she were a man.

Benstock characterizes Gertrude as a transvestite: "Stein dressed her celebration of lesbian eroticism in the garment of heterosexual grammar."

For example, in Gertrude's essay on grammar, "Arthur A Grammar" she equates grammar (the rules) with maleness (Arthur/patriarchy). The argument follows, then, that to control the rules of grammar, which was male, it was necessary to be male. Thus Gertrude's literary cross-dressing allowed her the male privilege of creating new rules for grammar, which she then used to speak of lesbian sexuality.

If this is true, however, by "becoming" male Gertrude would isolate herself from women, particularly lesbians, in her quest for success within the literary mainstream. It is true that public acknowledgement of her genius was of consuming importance to Gertrude. But she did not isolate herself from women, nor did she exclusively identify herself with maleness.

She did assume some traditionally "husbandly" roles in her relationship with Alice, and her hair was short. Her clothing, however, was decidedly female. Instead of electing to dress in male attire, as her contemporary Rad-

clyffe Hall did, she chose voluminous, flowing, long skirts that bring to mind maternity and femaleness.

She had female friends as well as male, taking Sylvia Beach along on drives in the country and inviting the wives of her male friends to her home when they would come alone instead of as appendages to their husbands. She retained her own, female name (Radclyffe Hall was known to her friends as "John"). She deliberately associated herself with feminism, writing an opera about Susan B. Anthony, *The Mother of Us All*.

Instead of looking and acting like a man, Gertrude looked and acted like a lesbian.

This is an important distinction, since Gertrude was only one of many lesbian and bisexual women living and working in Paris at the time. The prevailing male-centered climate devalued and marginalized women in general. Lesbians had an additional reason to feel alien from mainstream society. It was essential to know there were others, to develop a sense of community.

Gertrude's personal declaration of her orientation coupled with the glorification of lesbian sexuality encoded in her texts—hidden from the general public but obvious to those who knew, and who needed to know—were part of the support system.

Rather than subverting the patriarchy by becoming a part of it, which would seriously distance her from women, Gertrude subverted the patriarchy by allowing it to think she had merged with it. She, and the women of her community, knew the truth. •

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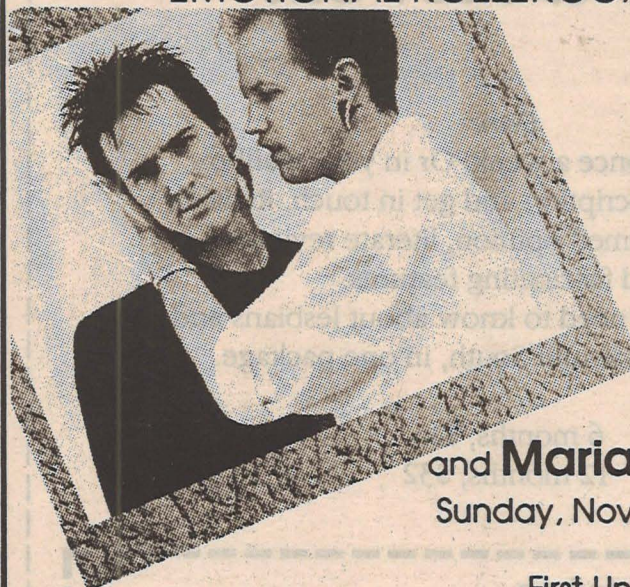
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## Briefs

### Hate Crimes Study Begins

From **STAFF REPORTS**

U.S. Senator Lowell Weicker (R-Connecticut) succeeded in attaching language that would require the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to collect information on hate crimes, including sexual orientation, to an appropriations bill. The bill became law when President Reagan signed it in October.

Weicker made the move at the urging of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

The Issues and Practices project will continue research started during an exploratory study concluded in October of 1987. That study reported that lesbians and gay men "are probably the most frequent victims" of hate crimes.

The Issues and Practices study program is conducted by the Justice Department to examine critical issues facing law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners.

While only \$20,000 was appropriated for the first hate crimes study, Weicker's amendment made over \$100,000 available for the new project. •

## Passages

### Steve Ashworth

**Steve Ashworth**, 42, a co-owner of Juanita's Bar in Nashville, died at home September 23.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ashworth, he was employed by South Central Bell.

Ashworth is survived by his lover and partner Mike Blevins, as well as by his parents, three brothers, a sister and three nephews. •

**Editor's note:** Please send obituary information to: Editor, *Dare*, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204.

Please include the deceased's name, age, occupation, names of any survivors, a photo if possible, and any other pertinent information, as well as your name and a phone number and address where you can be reached for verification.

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## Curtains

### Tennessee Rep's *Shrew*: Swallow Those Pearls

*Taming of the Shrew*, by William Shakespeare.

Adapted by John Briggs and Mac Pirkle. Tennessee Repertory Theatre. At James K. Polk Theatre, Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Nashville. Through November 12.

By **STUART BIVIN**

Editor

Tennessee Repertory Theatre has pulled off a tough one. Their groovy Sixties-hip production of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* is terrific.

First, it's sexist, like all Shakespeare. Women are sly and conniving, men are wise, witty, clever and/or noble. Everyone is, of course, heterosexual. But for those who can find universal lessons about humanity through the maze of antique ideas, this is a plum.

To begin with, the idea of hippies traipsing through Padua would have been enough to make my college Shakespeare professor choke on her pearls. It's easy to imagine a the worst - Elizabethan "thou"s and "wherefore"s amidst the bell-bottoms. I'll have to admit that I wasn't really looking forward to it. And a confession: I'm one of the six English majors in the whole world who don't like Shakespeare. I was just sure that, if the love beads and glow-in-the-dark colors didn't repossess my lunch, having to sit through a coupla hours of the Bard would do the trick.

But TRT's rollicking update [post-date? un-date? re-date?] of the classic farce is just too much fun to choke on anything but laughter.

And fun is what makes the show. The entire production, from Craig Spain's Peter-Max-goes-to-Mayberry sets to Charlotte Hamblen-Gannaway's too-close-for-comfort (I think I still have my granny glasses somewhere) sendups of Sixties clothes to Scott Leathers' clean psychedelic lighting (I expected black lights everywhere), to the, well, fabulous (beg pardon), acting, is an exercise in good, clean

fun.

I mean, you can tell everyone involved just kind of cut loose, took a lot of chances, and had a terrific time.

Director John Briggs (who has also done something called *Shogun Macbeth* at the Shakespeare festival of Dallas) and producer Mac Pirkle (TRT executive director), the duo who conceived and wrote the adaptation, no doubt had some convincing to do in order to get the thing going. But their efforts were certainly rewarded.

And about that acting. This is a solid, well-rehearsed cast. Really a fine ensemble performance, with only a couple of exceptions. But some really stand out.

Becky London's Kate ("Katherine") is proud, loud and so obnoxious you'll love her.

Cliff Jewell, as Tranio, does a drop-dead version of a Jerry Lewis-style dweeb. I probably shouldn't add that he is also really good looking, because that has nothing to do with his fine acting, but he is really good looking. Anyway, when he starts slipping between nerd and jock/studpuppy, the effect is hysterical. This is what makes live theatre fun.

Jackie Welch is a scene-stealer as a belt-'em-out Grumio jamming as she whizzes about the stage in a peace-symbol smothered golf cart.

Now, a word to those would-be purists who sniff at the idea of using the vernacular in a production of a classic from the Master: loosen up a little. Remember, Shakespeare wrote in the vernacular. All that highbrow language was originally aimed at commoners.

Besides. There's something appealing about such lines as "Holy matrimony, Batman" plopped down in the middle of a classic.

It all comes down to this: Get thee out to see TRT's *Taming of the Shrew*, dudes. It's hip, it's hot, it's happenin'. Now where did I put my granny glasses... •



# Screens

## Wenders' *Wings of Desire* Soars

*Wings of Desire* Starring Bruno Ganz, Otto Sander, Soveig Dommartin, and Peter Falk. Directed by Wim Wenders. German with English subtitles.

By **CAROLE CUNNINGHAM**  
Contributing Writer

In *Wings of Desire*, German director Wim Wenders, in collaboration with Swiss playwright Peter Hanke, has created a film about the schisms in human life and in human beings — beneath which lies the continuity of experience and spirit so often overlooked by the living. It is through the eyes of angels that we view the city of Berlin and its inhabitants, through them that we hear the silent thoughts we speak to ourselves, as divided within as we are without.

*Wings of Desire* is not a film "about" Berlin or "about" angels. It is about division, bifurcation, about the cut between substance and spirit, passion and love, joy and despair. But it is also about saying in the midst of this division, like the trapeze artist Marion, "J'ai une histoire": "I have a story, and I'll continue to have one" and about discovering the unforeseeable, ineffable unity of love.

Wenders' film centers on the story of an angel who finds himself wanting to be a human being — an unusual twist to that familiar cinematic troupe of angels fallen from favor who win back their wings by caring for some hapless human (*It's a Wonderful Life* and *Heaven Can Wait* to name two).

But the preoccupation of Wenders' angel Daniel (Bruno Ganz) with the human is even more unusual given the circumstance of the angels' endeavor: Daniel and his companion Cassiel (Otto Sander) arrive above the city of Berlin to record the lives of its citizens for posterity — lives who inner voices tell the angels tales of despair, separation, doubt and unfulfilled longing.

Yet while the angel Cassiel flees from the pain of humanity when he can no longer soothe it, Daniel finds himself increasingly in the place of the questioner: what would it be like to pull off one's shoes under the table, see one's fingers blackened by newsprint, to be "excited by a meal...the curve of a neck."

Daniel, saying he is growing weary of the "since always" and "forever," begins to feel the stirrings of something human, the longing for the "now" as he watches the trapeze artist Marion (Soveig Dommartin). Daniel's sharp intake of breath stirs Wenders' until-now black-and-white film into brilliant color, and Daniel's role as observer and recorder is suddenly changed and made human by his feeling of care for Marion's well-being.

With the comedic intervention of Peter Falk, the American actor, making a film in Berlin,

Daniel makes the decision to become human.

His last talk with his fellow angel Cassiel not surprisingly takes place in that "no-man's-land" at the Berlin Wall. Wenders and Hanke know, as the poets and philosophers before them have known, that choices about experiences are choices about ideas: and in deciding to choose the human over the angelic, Daniel invokes the thought of Heraclitus and Plato, the story of the Fall, the poetic theories of Wordsworth and Blake. But put simply, Daniel wants to plunge into time, step into a river that will not be the same river at the second step.

Daniel then awakens into a world of full-color, snow, hot coffee, and most keen of all, the pain of loss: Marion, the woman he hopes to love has disappeared with her fellow circus performers. Their love story begins with separation: the "no-man's-land" no longer at the Berlin Wall but at the wall of the heart.

As viewers of *Wings of Desire*, we now know what the story will be "about": the separation of the lovers, their struggle, their reunion. What stirs us is not the newness of the experience but its familiarity and sudden clarity.

Daniel does find Marion and Marion Daniel, and the scene of their reunion speaks the language of passion, commitment, consolation and union — but not that union we envision as the blending of beings, but rather the meeting of minds, wholly alone but capable

of connection.

Marion tells Daniel that she has never felt lonely: not while with friends or lovers and not when by herself. Only he has made her feel loneliness. And Daniel, who as an angel was the receptacle for an endless number of voices, and endless number of stories, now has himself *Une histoire*: one story, one history.

To tell the "story" of Wenders' *Wings of Desire* is to convey but a shadow of the film's substance: it is as rich, varied, substantial, as a painting, a poem, the city of Berlin, the interiority of any one of its characters.

Wenders and Hanke, along with the brilliant cinematography of Henri Alikan and the sublime performances of Ganz, Sander, Dommartin and Falk, have created a film of vision and passion that pays tribute to its own history in its allusions to Frank Capra, silent film and that most unlikely of celluloid heroes, Peter Falk's "Columbo." Like the stories that quicken the angel Daniel, *Wings of Desire* quickens its audience with its haunting vision of human lives from angelic perspective and its hopeful vision of human continuity amid chaos.

*Wings of Desire* will startle you and the stirring it creates will haunt you like a beautiful melody long after the house lights are up. •

**Marion tells Daniel that she has never felt lonely: not while with friends or lovers and not when by herself.**

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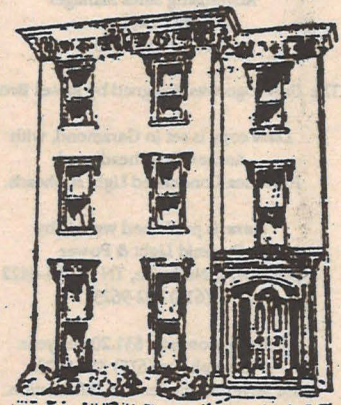
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From the Heart of the American South

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## Views

### Freedom of Speech: For Queers, Too

**THE STAFF** at the Green Hills Public Library has long upheld the finest principles of American liberty, as well as of the educated mind. They have been extremely cooperative with members of the community, whether that cooperation is in helping to find information about lesbian and gay literature or arranging meeting space or posting notices about meetings and events.

These people are helpful because they understand the inherent dangers in censorship, that no matter the reason given for blocking the free circulation of information, it is always just the first step, the platform upon which further and even more intrusive control of the flow of speech is built.

It seems that their bosses, the downtown administrators of the Public Library, could learn a few lessons from those who actually do the real work of dealing with the public.

The powers-that-be in the library's administration have decided that an 8-1/2" by 11" flyer, produced by gay and lesbian teenagers for lesbian and gay teenagers, is so intrinsically evil that it must not be allowed to be posted. The theory supposedly is that the poster will encourage and entice teens to be homosexual — *that* old myth again.

The real reason is that these administrators don't really believe that free speech must apply to everyone. They seem to think that it can apply to selected groups without applying to others.

There seems to be no problem with any of the other announcements on the Green Hills Public Library's heretofore-uncensored bulletin board — even those from adults specifically targeting teenagers for everything from jobs to church youth groups.

The bureaucrats have shamelessly bowed to bigots abusing the label of Christianity in order to repress ideas they dislike. It's a toss-up as to which is worse: trying to bully people into preventing communication among youth in an already-difficult position or giving in to those bullies for lack of backbone. •

## Between the Lines

### Coming Out, and Coming Back

By **JEFF ELLIS**  
Managing Editor

When word came a few weeks ago that a group of courageous lesbians and gay men at Middle Tennessee State University were organizing, I felt vindicated.

Nine years ago, while I was a student at MTSU, I came out while I was editor of the school newspaper, *Sidelines*. The knowledge that a *Sidelines* story precipitated the new organization only helped to make my vindication sweeter.

In 1979, things were a lot different than they are now. But being queer in Murfreesboro was no day at the beach.

The summer prior to my editorship I shared the news of my plan with several friends: I told them I planned to come out in the pages of *Sidelines*.

"Are you sure you want to do this?" was the most commonly asked question.

"I think so," was my not-completely-convincing reply.

But since I knew I was gay — as did quite a few others — I decided I really had no choice.

My vehicle for coming out was a story about growing up gay in the Bible Belt. It chronicled the stories of three young gay men — one of whom was me. I planned my revelation carefully. I carefully wrote and rewrote the story.

The story would run the first week of October, I decided. That way, I would have one full month to establish my reputation as editor of the school paper. Some people recognized my

name from a term as editor of the school's magazine, but *Sidelines* carried a little more mass appeal.

However, when it came time to do the second issue of the young semester, I was informed by the advertising manager that the number of pages in that issue had doubled.

The staff and I rushed around trying to come up with enough copy to fill 16 pages. My managing editor, a very good friend, looked at me and asked, "Are you ready?"

"There's no time like the present," I said, my heart in my throat, uncertain of the reaction to my story.

Luckily, the staff rallied around, voicing words of support and applauding my brave stand. Frankly, I was beginning to think I wasn't really brave. I was just looking for some attention. Actually, I feared I was being real stupid. After all, the KKK had contacted me a couple of days earlier to say they were watching me for editorial positions they didn't like.

The next morning, my first campus stop — like every other day — was my mailbox. There were no letter bombs. But when I turned around, I was faced with a guy brandishing a copy of *Sidelines*.

"Oh, God," I thought. "He's gonna kill me."

Instead, he said, "Jeff, your story was really good. I'm really impressed with your courage to do that."

And that set the tone for the rest of the day. Everyone — instead of calling me "faggot" and promising castration — congratulated me for

the story and for my revelation.

The head of the psychology department wrote a glowing letter, saying she had sent copies of my story to colleagues around the country.

And an English professor called to tell me I had become a footnote — a student had used my story as a reference source for a research paper.

That was pretty much it, although some homophobic professors in the mass communications department took it upon themselves to make my life a living hell for the next several months — and years.

But despite the reception to my story, no efforts were made by me or any other queers on campus to organize. Instead, I felt isolated from them.

As a matter of fact, it was only after I left MTSU that I actually met someone who went to school there who would admit to me they were lesbian or gay.

So when I first met Dan Webster, John Weaver and Richie Smith, and they told me their plans to organize the MTSU Lambda Association, I felt a real sense of pride.

I felt proud because finally lesbians and gay men on the MTSU campus felt empowered enough to face the music, so to speak.

I felt proud because I share a history with those people.

I felt proud because they and I were able to say who we are.

After all these years. •

**Vote.  
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the  
least  
you  
can  
do.**



## Quotes

### Out of the Mouths of Babes...

"In the case of rape, hopefully, they would seek medical attention immediately, and under normal medical procedure, life and conception would not even begin. But once life takes place, my personal preference is for that life to be able to continue....I understand that the medical procedure normally—a D-and-C—right after a rape, you would not even get into conception and a life would not even be formed."

—Indiana Senator and Republican Vice Presidential candidate Dan Quayle to reporters in Memphis Wednesday who questioned him about his beliefs on abortion for victims of rape. Quayle suggested that women who are raped submit to an immediate D-and-C in order to prevent conception.

"It would be malpractice to perform a D-and-C right after a rape to prevent a pregnancy."

—Douglas Brown, M.D., Vanderbilt University professor of medicine, who added that the procedure is not considered medically effective until 6-8 weeks after conception.

"[They want to] make a big political scheme like blacks and latinos...If they get their way it's the annihilation of the human race."

—"Son of Archie Bunker," an unidentified

caller to the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, October 11, 1988. The show featured lesbians and gay men who were participating in National Coming Out Day.

"The studio and home audience members are the 'normal' ones with not a shred of anorexia, bulimia, or homosexuality among them. The audience members are encouraged to be voyeurs, and are rarely challenged to examine their own sexuality or behaviors. At best, the shows may sometimes foster a more liberal sense of the world, in which the audience recognizes the variety 'out there.' At worst, audience members' own sense of normality is reinforced and all those lesbian nuns, transvestites, and former drug addicts are seen as aberrations—sickos and weirdos who live on the TV screen and other far-off places."

—Kim Westheimer, "Telling All, on Oprah," in *Gay Community News*, about television talk show hosts' exploitation of "abnormal" people

"I'm going to run for president. I have all the qualifications. I'm on TV. I'm an actor. And I'm a liar."

—David Leisure, "Joe Isuzu" in the Japanese car company's hit TV commercials

## One in Teen

### Freedom of Speech and Assembly?

Because he is a minor, the author will use a pseudonym.

By **PATRICK HILLS**  
Contributing Writer

Today, unfortunately, I am the bearer of bad news.

As some of you may know, I wrote about the problems of getting posters about the youth support group put up in school.

I jinxed myself!

Several months ago, I asked that my poster be placed on the bulletin board at the Green Hills Public Library. The library, without hesitation, agreed to place the poster on the board in the lobby.

Since I frequently visit the library, I noticed one day that my poster was gone. I asked one of the employees about it. Apparently some patron took his or her liberties and removed my poster from the bulletin board.

I also learned that there had been some complaints about my poster. Some people felt that it encouraged or enticed a teenager to become lesbian or gay. (I don't know about you, but very few posters could make me change my sexual orientation.) The library put another of my posters up, and another, and another. This made four posters in approximately three months.

Oh well! The library is maintaining its tradition of upholding the First Amendment. Those at the Green Hills Library have respect for their bulletin board, which is a non-censored board, but the complaints kept coming in at an increasing rate. However, the librarian worked just as hard to defend the right for the poster to be displayed since it is a public announce-

ment.

I thought all was going well until last week.

The bomb! Complaints started coming into the offices of those in charge of the whole library system in Nashville. Mothers called, saying they were afraid that my poster made being lesbian or gay look fun and inviting.

This confused me greatly. If it was all fun and games, there would be no need for a support group like the one I'm trying to form.

One mother who said she was active in fighting *The Last Temptation of Christ* promised to gather many of the same people to fight my poster being placed in the library. This apparently scared the library system.

The main office of the Nashville Public Library decided to take my poster off the bulletin board at the Green Hills Library. I was told that this was an "administrative decision by more than one person."

A concern about the library's image was one reason given for removing my poster. This really upsets me because I felt that the library has sold out the First Amendment to protecting an "image."

Which is more important?

Some of those at the library—who stand to benefit nothing from the poster being on the bulletin board—are equally and justifiably upset about this decision.

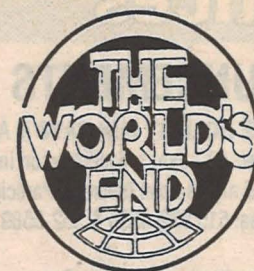
Though this is a big setback for me, I intend to continue working to form this support group. My biggest regret is that those who complained may feel that if they complain enough and voice enough threats, the library will remove other public announcements that might offend someone. •

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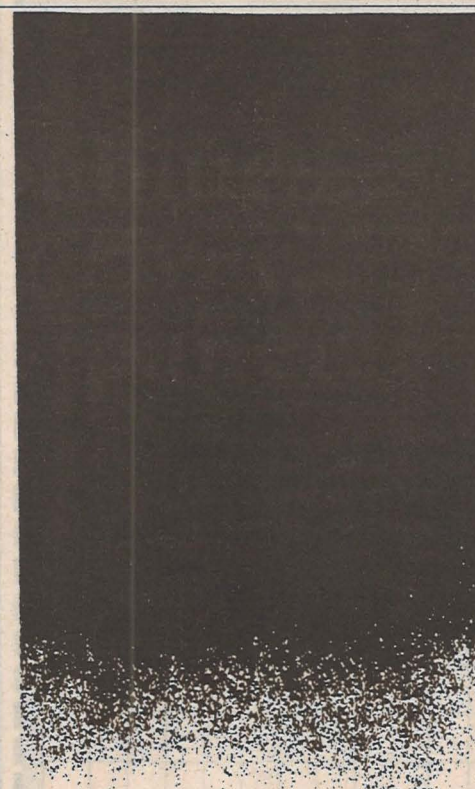
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