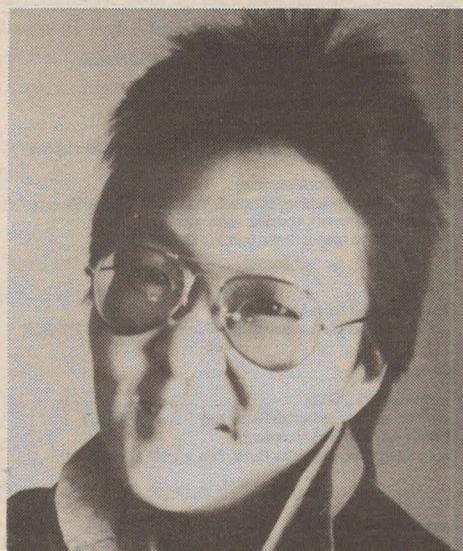


Paul Reed has managed the near-impossible: an elegant, thought-provoking novel about coming to terms with homosexuality. Editor Stuart Bivin reviews *Longing in Pages*, the quarterly book section. —PHOTO THOMAS GATES



Willyce Kim has reunited the characters from her popular first novel, *Dancer Dawkins and the California Kid*, in her fast-paced new book. Book Editor Sherre Dryden takes a look at *Dead Heat* in *Pages*, the quarterly book section. —PHOTO KITTI TSUI

New York Judge Forbids Forced HIV Testing and List-keeping

From STAFF REPORTS

A New York court in Albany has dismissed a lawsuit brought by four physician groups that sought to require the New York State Department of Health to permit testing without consent of those who are suspect of carrying the human immunodeficiency virus and to collect the names of those who test positive for HIV antibodies, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund announced last week.

Justice F. Warren Travers of the New York State Supreme Court upheld Dr. David Axelrod, the New York State Commissioner of Health, who argued that forcible testing and name reporting would do nothing to reduce

the spread of AIDS and would, in fact, be counterproductive to the public health.

"The court's decision constitutes a double victory: one for the legal rights of people at risk for AIDS and one for the public health interests of all New Yorkers," said Thomas B. Stoddard, Lambda's executive director, who had argued against the physicians' groups before Travers.

"The decision permits a climate in which individuals will feel free to come forward to seek testing, counselling and testing," Stoddard said.

The suit, brought by the Medical Society of the State of New York, the New York State

continued on page 4

Nashville Group to Attack Porn, Adult Bookstores

By JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

An effort to rid Nashville of "illegal pornographic materials" is under way as members of the recently formed Nashville Coalition Against Pornography (NCAP) prepare to do battle "to make the city a better place to live," according to Diana Maas, one of the group's leaders.

Maas said the organization, formed by a coalition of Christian fundamentalist-oriented groups, will attempt to guarantee enforcement of state and local laws against selling obscene materials.

David R. Shepherd, another of the group's leaders, cited statistics which indicate a 600% increase in reported cases of child sexual abuse in Davidson County since 1981. He said a "grass-roots effort," starting with the elimination of pornography, would reduce such sex crimes.

The Nashville group is patterned after the National Coalition Against Pornography, formed by the Rev. Jerry Kirk of Cincinnati in response to the Meese Report on pornography. That report, issued last year by an 11-member group empaneled by then-U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, prepared an in-depth study of pornography in this country.

"The Meese Commission's report really helped to open our eyes to the problem. What is encouraging about the report is that it was telling us that pornography is illegal," Maas said, explaining that her involvement came as a result of the birth of her third child.

"When my third child was about to be born, I realized how concerned I was about living in a city as large as Nashville. When we realized

just how much pornography is available in Nashville, my husband and I considered moving to a smaller town to raise our children," Maas said. "But we decided to stay here and fight."

Maas, along with a David Lipscomb University student, first began to talk about organizing an anti-pornography push some six months ago after considering the Meese Commission report. She said that since then their efforts have attracted "different types of people — people involved in business, civic leaders, elected officials and pastors from several different denominations."

"Over the years, I think the American public has adjusted to more extreme sexual acts. We see more and more sex on television, sex is used to sell things in advertisements," she said. "We think viewing a film or looking at a picture of someone engaged in sex is okay. But it's not."

Maas rejected the notion that NCAP's efforts are a threat to the freedom of speech as prescribed by the U.S. Constitution.

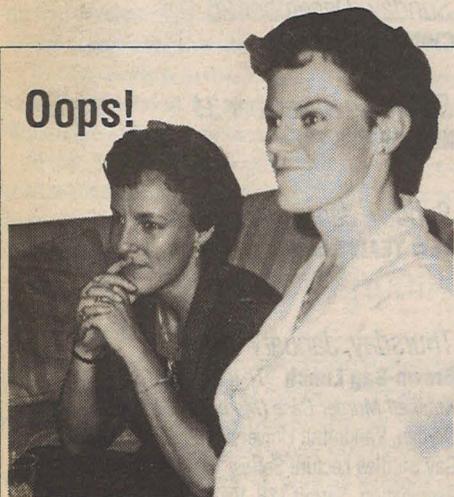
"Many people think that by going after illegal pornography that we are against freedom of speech. That's not true. There are laws on the books which make pornography illegal. We see ourselves as an organization to encourage law enforcement authorities to follow the law," Maas said.

She said NCAP is still planning efforts for the coming months and would not rule out actions directed at local adult bookstores.

"We're looking at stopping the distribution of illegal pornography," Maas said. "And if that means the closing of a business that is involved

continued on page 4

Oops!



Because of production problems, last week's front-page photo of Terry (left) and Robyn Kevlin was unrecognizable to most. This is the photo as it should have appeared. *Dare* apologizes for the error, and is glad to correct the record. —PHOTO PAT APPLIGATE

Doctor Arrested for Child Abuse, Porn, Commits Suicide

By JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

LOUISVILLE - A physician, arrested two days earlier on charges that he sodomized two Indiana teenagers, was found dead last Friday of an apparent suicide in the garage of his Louisville home.

Oldham County, Ky., authorities said that 54-year-old Chalmer S. Wheeler died of carbon monoxide poisoning, after leaving handwritten suicide notes in several locations.

Earlier in the week, Wheeler had been released on his own recognizance after his arrest on five counts of sodomy and two counts of distributing child pornography. He was charged after Kentucky authorities were tipped off by Indiana officials that Wheeler

was suspected of molesting two Brownsburg, Ind., teenagers.

Armed with a search warrant, FBI agents discovered substantial amounts of pornographic materials and camera equipment in the physician's condominium.

Found in the apartment were more than 40 photo albums filled with pictures of boys in various stages of undress; books advertising child pornography; and pornographic videos featuring teen-age boys, including some apparently made by Wheeler.

Police reported that several large photographs of nude boys were found in the condominium and that the photo albums, each with 20 to 30 pages, were filled with similar pic

continued on page 4

INSIDE

Playhouse on the Square's holiday entry: *Peter Pan*, page 10.

Jaan Sturgis serves up some turkey-day dish, *Sociables*, page 11.

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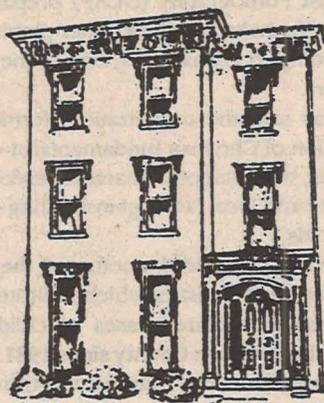
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Dates

Memphis

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Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)
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Tuesdays

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)
Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center, 5:30 and 8pm. Info 901 272-9459.

Wednesdays

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)
Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center, 8pm. Info 901 272-9459.

Thursdays

P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
Support group, St. John's Episcopal Church, 322 S Greer, 1st Thursday only. Info 901 761-1444.
Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)
Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center, 5:30pm. Info 901 272-9459.
Into the Light (Women's Alcoholics Anonymous)
Meeting, Memphis Lambda Center, 8pm. Info 901 276-7379.

Fridays

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)
Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center, 5:30 and 10pm. Info 901 272-9459.

Saturdays

Twisted Sisters (ACOA)
Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center, Noon. Info 901 276-7379.
Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)
Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center, 8pm. Info 901 272-9459.

Sundays

Agape New Life Church
Sunday School, 9:30am. Worship service, 11am. Info 901 327-4145.
Into the Light (Women's Alcoholics Anonymous)
Meeting, Memphis Lambda Center, Noon. Info 901 276-7379.
Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)
Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center, 8pm. Info 901 272-9459.

Nashville

Mondays

Nashville CARES
AIDS/ARC Support Group, 6:30pm. HIV Education Support Group, 6pm. Family Support Group, 6:30pm. Info 615 385-1510.
Lambda Group
Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church, 8pm.
MAGNET (Married and Gay Network)
Support group for married gay men. 1st & 3rd Mondays only. MCC, 8pm. Info 615 320-0288.

Tuesdays

Vanderbilt Lambda Association
Meeting for gay and lesbian Vanderbilt students, faculty, staff and alumni. Vanderbilt Divinity School, Room G 23. 5:30pm. Info 615 385-4283.
AI-Anon
Open meeting, MCC, 6:30pm.
Nashville CARES
HIV Education Support Groups, 7pm. Info 615 385-1510.
Sober Sisters (Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous)
Closed meeting, MCC, 8pm.

Wednesdays

Sex Addicts Anonymous
Closed meeting for gay men and lesbians. MCC, 5:30pm.
Nashville CARES
AIDS/ARC Couples Support Group, 5:30pm. AIDS/ARC Support Group, 6:30pm. HIV Support Group, 7pm. Info 615 385-1510.
MTSU Lambda Association
Meeting for lesbian and gay Middle Tennessee State University students, faculty, staff, and alumni. 7pm. Info 615 890-3787.

Thursdays

Nashville CARES
HIV Support Group, 6:30pm. Visualization group, 6:30pm. Info 615 385-1510.
Alternatives (Alcoholics Anonymous)
Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC, 8pm.
Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA)
Meeting, 8pm. Info 615 385-4776 or 615 352-5823.

Fridays

Sexuals Anonymous
Closed meeting, MCC, 5pm.
Gay Parents Support Group
Meeting, MCC, 1st Friday only, 7pm. Info 615 292-0817 or 615 320-0288.
Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group
Meeting, Belmont United Methodist, 7:30 pm.

Saturdays

Nashville CARES
AIDS/ARC Support Group, 4pm. Info 615 385-1510.
Metropolitan Community Church
Mortgage Meal, all you can eat, 7:30pm, \$5.
Gay Cable Network
Cablecast, Nashville Viacom Channel 35 (Community Access Television), 8pm.

Sundays

Metropolitan Community Church
Worship services, 11am and 7pm. Info 615 320-0288.

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

SPECIAL Events

Friday, December 2

Nashville Women's Alliance Coffeehouse featuring Ruby Slipper, Molly & Beverly and a surprise guest. \$4. Unitarian Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. 8pm.

Saturday, December 3

Christmas Bazaar Metropolitan Community Church, 131 15th Av North, Nashville. 10am-7:30pm. Info 615 320-0288.

Senator Albert Gore, Jr. Open Meetings, Ed Rice Community Center, 2907 North Watkins, Memphis. 4:30-5:30pm.

Sunday, December 4

HANNUKAH

Thursday, December 8

Brown-Bag Lunch *Writing Fiction About AIDS*, Franklin Brooks, Vanderbilt professor of French and Italian. Lesbian and Gay Studies Lecture Series, Vanderbilt Lambda Association, 205 Sarratt, Vanderbilt, Nashville. 12:10-1pm. Free.

Film *The Berlin Affair (Interno Berlinese)* Vanderbilt Lambda Association, 220 Garland Hall, Vanderbilt, Nashville. 7pm. \$1 donation.

Saturday, December 10

Gay Women's Social Group Ornament-making party, Memphis. Info 901 458-1973.

Concert *Encounter International*, inspirational music. Metropolitan Community Church, 131 15th Av North, Nashville. 8:30pm (follows Mortgage Meal). Info 615 320-0288.

Sunday, December 11

Feminist Book Circle Meeting. Guest speaker author Merril Mushroom, on her new book *Daughters of Khaton*. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. 5-7pm. Free. Info 615 385-4283.

Thursday, December 15

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

Sunday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday, December 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sunday, January 1, 1989

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Thursday, January 12

Brown-Bag Lunch *That Strange Girl: The Alice Mitchell Murder Case (Memphis, 1896)*, Sherre Dryden, Vanderbilt University librarian. Lesbian and Gay Studies Lecture Series, Vanderbilt Lambda Association, Sarratt 118, Vanderbilt, Nashville. 12:10-1pm. Free.

Briefs

D.C. Homos Chide Mayor

From STAFF REPORTS

Gay and lesbian activists in Washington, D.C., last week lambasted Mayor Marion Barry for his failure to speak out against the controversial Armstrong amendment, an attempt by congress to weaken the District's gay rights law.

The incident marked the first time since the Memphis native was elected mayor of Washington that gay and lesbian leaders have publicly criticized his handling of pertinent issues.

Some 50 representatives of local gay and lesbian rights groups, as well as AIDS-related groups, attended the meeting held at Washington's Church of the Pilgrims at Barry's invitation. Four senior members of Barry's staff, who are homosexual, also attended the meeting.

Gay and lesbian leaders admonished Barry for refusing to speak out against the amendment or to challenge its constitutionality.

Barry said he agreed with activists' concerns over the Armstrong amendment, as well as other votes by Congress which would limit home rule in the district.

Barry told those assembled he felt he could best be effective by working behind the scenes to devise a strategy to stop the Armstrong amendment.

The amendment, named for its author, Sen. William Armstrong (R-Colo.) threatens to freeze the District's entire operating budget on Dec. 31 unless steps are taken to amend the city's Human Rights Act to allow religious educational institutions to discriminate against gay men and lesbians. •

Seven Openly Gay/Lesbian Candidates Win

From STAFF REPORTS

Despite reports to the contrary, political pundits report that all was not lost for lesbian and gay fortunes in last month's elections.

Seven of the 11 openly lesbian/gay candidates for federal, state and local offices were victorious.

"We some some this election and we lost some," said Robert Bray of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF). "We may go into Congress with more supporters of AIDS legislation and gay/lesbian civil rights bills than ever before. That's the silver lining to this whole thing.

Openly-gay Massachusetts congressmen Barney Frank and Gerry Studds were both returned to the House of Representatives. Frank, in his first race since revealing his homosexuality, was reelected by a sizable margin. Studds won his third reelection try since coming out in 1983.

In Washington state, openly gay state senate candidate Calvin Anderson was elected. He had earlier been appointed to fill an unexpired term in the state senate.

Minnesota state representative Karen Clark was elected to her fifth term in office. The lesbian activist vowed to continue her efforts to pass a hate crimes bill and to increase statewide civil rights protection to cover discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt, who replaced the late Harvey Milk on the County Board of Supervisors in 1979, was reelected and by virtue of that fact will serve a four-year term as president of the board.

Tim Wolfred, a gay member of San Francisco's Community College Board, won reelection to his seat.

Lesbian activist Judy Abdo captured one of four open seats on the Santa Monica City Council. •

Whoopi: Yes, She Has

From STAFF REPORTS

Is she or isn't she? Probably not even her hairdresser knows for sure.

But Whoopi Goldberg maintains that people continually ask her whether she is a lesbian.

Goldberg, who was nominated for a Best Actress Oscar for her film debut as Miss Celie in the movie version of Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, said the film's lesbian overtones probably serve as the source for the questions.

In an interview in the Nov. 22 issue of the *Advocate*, a national magazine for gay men, Goldberg said her decision to serve as one of the keynote speakers at last year's National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights also prompted questions.

"I say, 'Normally, this would be none of your business; however, I will answer you,'" Goldberg told the *Advocate*. "It's possible. I'm not practicing at the moment, but I will not say it will never happen or it hasn't happened in my past." •

Openly Gay Doctor Appointed Head of NIH Study

From STAFF REPORTS

Openly gay physician Lawrence Deyton has been named to head a new National Institutes of Health program that will enable a greater number of people with AIDS to receive access to experimental drug treatments through local physicians.

The announcement last week by NIH official Dr. Anthony Fauci was greeted with praise from lesbian and gay leaders, as well as leaders within the AIDS services community.

Deyton, a resident of Washington, D.C., was one of the founders of that city's Whitman-Walkier Clinic, and has worked since 1987 on the staff of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). In that position, he monitors AIDS patients receiving experimental treatments.

The Whitman-Walker Clinic, established in 1973 as a gay men's venereal disease treatment center, is now one of the main providers of AIDS-related services in the District of Columbia.

Deyton will coordinate the Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS, and serve as assistant director for community research. •

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Dare

...anti-porn group

continued from page 1

in the distribution of illegal pornography, then so be it."

Shepherd said NCAP members will lobby Metro Council members as well as state legislators and law enforcement officials to make enforcement of pornography laws "a priority." He said a community awareness campaign is planned for spring, 1989, to highlight the role pornography has played locally.

NCAP members, at a breakfast meeting Thursday at the Capitol Club, heard Hugh McClellan outline efforts by a Chattanooga group to combat pornography there.

The Chattanooga group was instrumental in the closing down of adult bookstores and film arcades in that city. Sources there report that after the group was successful in closing those businesses, they turned their attentions to attempted closings of the city's gay bars.

...New York lists

continued from page 1

Society of Surgeons, The Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons, and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, demanded that the Commissioner designate both AIDS and HIV infection as "sexually transmissible" and "communicable" diseases under the state's Public Health Law.

Under such circumstances, names of all persons with HIV-seropositive results would be reported to the Department of Health. In addition, physicians would have the authority to test anyone suspected of being positive,

...Louisville suicide

continued from page 1

tures.

The FBI got the search warrant after the youths, ages 13 and 14, told their parents about their alleged sexual contacts with Wheeler, after the boys were unable to account for their whereabouts Friday, Nov. 18.

Wheeler allegedly picked up the boys that Friday at a prearranged location in Brownsburg, which is just northwest of Indi-

Tennessee statutes define obscene materials as "patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts," such as sexual intercourse; fellatio, cunnilingus or sodomy. Laws outlaw the ownership, distribution and display of such materials.

Editor's note: For more information on the politics of pornography, Book Editor Sherre Dryden recommends the following:

Women Against Censorship. Varda Burstyn, ed. Boston: Salem House, 1985. 210p. \$8.95 paper.

Pornography and Silence: Culture's Revolt Against Nature. Susan Griffin. NY: Harper and Row, 1981. 320p., \$7.95 paper.

Take Back the Night: Women on Pornography. Laura Lederer, ed. Morrow, 1980. 352p. \$14.95, \$9.95 paper.

Policing Desire: Pornography, AIDS, and the Media. Simon Watney. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1987. 159p. \$35.00, \$14.95 paper. •

sexual partners would be notified by the state about the possibility of infection, and isolation and quarantine provisions would be triggered.

"The proposal put forward by the four doctors' groups amounted to New York's version of Proposition 102, the regressive California initiative that failed at the polls last month," Stoddard said. "Compulsory testing by physicians would create an adversary relationship between patients and doctors, and drive many in need away from medical care and advice." •

anapolis. He drove them back the following Saturday after they spent the night with him in Louisville, police reported. One of the boys, who has relatives in Louisville, is believed to have met the doctor last summer and the two had maintained contact since then.

Wheeler, a radiologist at Louisville's Jewish Hospital for several years, was described by the Louisville *Courier-Journal* as a bachelor who lived alone. •

Arts Notes

From **STAFF REPORTS**

NOTED ACTOR HAL HOLBROOK brings his critically-acclaimed production of "Mark Twain Tonight!" to the Tennessee Performing Arts Center's Jackson Hall Saturday, Dec. 10, for an 8 p.m. performance.

Tickets to the performance are \$11, \$15.50 and \$18.50 and may be purchased at any Ticketmaster location or charged by calling 741-2787.

JOHN BAEDER's wryly probing glimpses of Nashville and Carol Sarkisian's wildly beaded boots and beasts are featured at Zimmerman-Saturn Gallery throughout the month of December.

The gallery's final show of the 1988 year — including the first exhibition of "Nashville Snaps," a collection of Type "C" Print photographs by Baeder, and a display of Sarkisian's fancifully jeweled creatures and creations — opens with a reception from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3. The show will continue at the gallery through Jan. 3, 1989.

Zimmerman-Saturn Gallery is located at 131 Second Avenue, North. The gallery is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Further information on the Baeder-Sarkisian show, as well as upcoming exhibitions, is available by calling the gallery at (615) 255-8895.

TENNESSEE REPERTORY THEATRE will deck the halls of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center's Polk Theatre this holiday season with *Christmas Memories*, an original family-oriented presentation of music and merriment Dec. 7 — 11.

Christmas Memories opens in Polk Theatre Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 8 p.m., with subsequent performances on Thursday and Friday evenings at 8 p.m. and a Sunday night performance at 7 p.m. The show's only matinee is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2:30 p.m. The show will not be presented on Saturday, Dec. 10.

Tickets are \$5, \$7.50, \$8, \$10, \$12.50 and \$15 and can be purchased over the phone by calling 320-7172. Tickets are also available at all Centratik and Ticketmaster outlets and at the TRT Box Office in the Polk Theatre lobby prior to each performance. •

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Dare Pages

THE WINTER BOOK SECTION

PREVIEWS:

What's Hot, And What's About to Be

Compiled by **SHERRE DRYDEN**
Book Editor

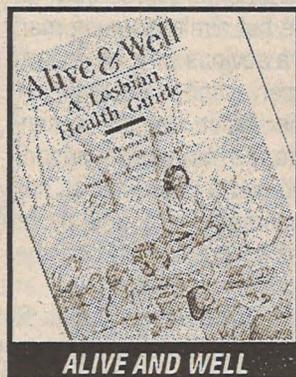
Here's a list of new books and books scheduled for publication in the next few months that look like they ought to be interesting to gay men and lesbians.

Crush. Jane Fitcher. Boston: Alyson Publications.

First published in 1981, *Crush* is the story of two 17 year-old girls who fall in love at an exclusive boarding school. Jinx, quiet and reserved, develops a crush on the beautiful and popular Lexie. Neither quite knows whether to be thrilled or appalled by their feelings for each other.

Feminist in the Dark: Reviewing the Movies. Kakthi Maio. Crossing Press.

A collection of Maio's film reviews, most originally published in *Sojourner*. Maio's style is chatty and familiar ("What a story! I cried my little eyes out, and had



ALIVE AND WELL

no idea why"), usually providing a beginner's-level feminist analysis of movies like *The Color Purple*, *Fatal Attraction* and *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*.

The Gold Diggers. Paul Monette. Boston: Alyson Publications.

First published in 1979, *The Gold Diggers* is an adventure set in "Crook House," a grand mansion out of Hollywood's silent-screen past. Three friends search for hidden treasure in this send-up of America's obsessions with fortune, fame and living happily ever after.

AIDS and Its Metaphors. Susan Sontag. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. January.

In *Illness as Metaphor*, Sontag argued that the myths and metaphors surrounding disease can kill by instilling shame and guilt in the sick, thus delaying them

from seeking treatment. Here she contends that metaphors of plague, the wrath of god and African scourge are at work in the case of AIDS, causing patients to be stigmatized while leading to the spread of misinformation and panic.

Radical Records: Thirty Years of Lesbian and Gay History. Edited by Bob Cant and Susan Hemmings. Routledge.

By using personal accounts from individuals involved, *Radical Records* chronicles the contributions made by lesbians and gay men in shaping leftist and civil libertarian movements in Great Britain. While the names of the activists may not be so familiar to us in the United States, their messages about the courage needed to stand up, speak out and fight for radical change cross the boundaries of nations and serve as an inspirational example.

Testimonies and Revelations. Boston: Alyson Publications.

Men (*Testimonies*) and women (*Revelations*) tell how they came out to themselves, family and friends.

Longing. Paul Reed. Celestial Arts.

Reed (*Facing It*) writes of San Francisco's gay community in the early 1980's - a time when it was becoming apparent that AIDS would change things forever. The young narrator, moved to fulfill his youthful dreams, leaves his small town home to explore San Francisco. Enchanted and hopeful, he pursues love and friendship, thrilled to be living his dreams at last. But those dreams are shattered, and he must confront the deeper meanings of his longing.

Diamonds are a Dykes' Best Friend: Reflections, Reminiscences, and Reports from the Field on the Lesbian National Pastime. Yvonne Zipter. Firebrand.

The Construction of Homosexuality. David F. Greenberg. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. December.

Greenberg provides a scholarly cross-cultural and historical account of the social organization of homosexuality; the ways it is perceived and responded to by society. His comparative approach

continued on next page

REVIEWS:

Dead Heat

Dead Heat. Willyce Kim. Boston: Alyson, 1988. 158 pages, \$6.95.

By **SHERRE DRYDEN**
Book Editor

Willyce Kim's characters are definitely off-beat.

There's Dancer Dawkins, suffering from a broken heart after being dumped by her lover Jessica, who broke the news one morning:

"Dancer," Jessica began, "that was a terrific breakfast. My omelet was delicious. And the buckwheat pancakes were splendid. And Dancer, I'm having an affair with Jule Goodard and I want to live with her."

Dancer heads west, to California, in search of her friend Will Guthrie, the California Kid.

The Kid is in the throes of lust over Janes Philips Joyce. The Kid is her first woman - in real life Janes is the girlfriend of gangster Vinny "The Skull" LaRoca. When Janes' uncle, Canadian Dave, retired to his grapefruit ranch in Arizona he left Vinny two things: his "book" and Janes.

Vinny has a lot of money and his reputa-



DEAD HEAT

tion riding on a big stakes horserace; the only horse likely to beat his is Flash and Dance, ridden by Cody Roberts. Cody has just come to California from Nebraska, trying to forget a bad racing accident, a terrifying nightmare and Frankie Tucker, her trainer's daughter.

Kim introduces these strands - Dancer's struggle to come to terms with Jessica's infidelity, the Kid's budding and slightly perverse romance with Janes, Cody's psychic distress and Vinny's desperate need to have a winner - individually, then slowly

continued on page 8

Longing

Longing. Paul Reed. Berkeley: Celestial Arts, 1988. 175pp. \$14.95.

By **STUART BIVIN**
Editor

This is one of those thin, elegant novels that I usually detest for their pretentiousness and self-conscious elegance. The back cover promised dreary self-absorption: "Here I stood alone, waiting at a summit from which I saw the ocean and towers of concrete, and I swelled in a sudden sensation of harmony..." You get the idea.

To be perfectly honest, I picked it up because I expected a real piece of pseudo-intellectual fluff that I could denounce roundly.

Don't judge a book by its cover.

Paul Reed really is the wonderful storyteller that his blurbs promise. This is one of the best short novels I've read since Edmund White's equally-disturbing *Forgetting Elena*. Like White, Reed manages to put his thumb on the pulse of what it's really like to be homosexual. And like White, he



LONGING

sometimes presses hard enough on the wrist to make you wince as he takes that pulse.

Longing follows a young man, a boy, really, coming out and coming to terms in early-80s San Francisco (even the premise sounds really awful - how many times has this been done badly, like an assignment from someone's therapist?). Our hero has a brain, a heart and even a conscience, all of which get a thorough workout.

This is a thought-provoking, engrossing story told precisely and well. A very pleasant surprise. 20-20-20



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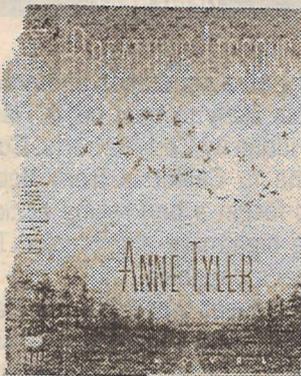
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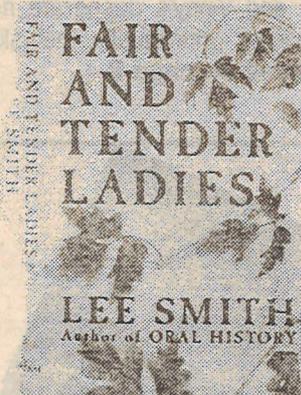
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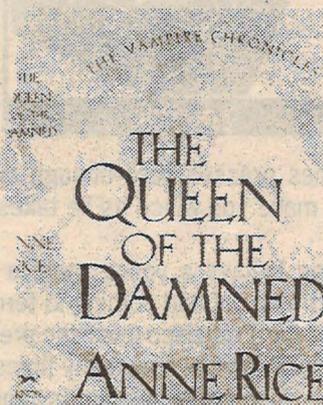
BREATHING LESSONS
by Anne Tyler

Welcome to the world of Maggie and Ira, married 28 years. Maggie is harum-scarum and something of a meddler. Ira is competent and patient. Both are unforgettable in the hands of this fine novelist. One of Mills' picks as among the best books of the year. Hardcover, \$18.95.



FAIR AND TENDER LADIES
by Lee Smith

North Carolina novelist Lee Smith's latest book is her best yet. The character Ivy Rowe, from young girl to older woman, is one of the most memorable people the reader will ever get to know. Smith is gifted at capturing the haunting, ghost-like spiritual quality of life in Appalachia. Hardcover, \$17.95.



THE QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
by Anne Rice

The third volume of the *Vampire Chronicles*, which began ten years ago with the acclaimed *Interview with the Vampire*. The narrative winds across a tapestry of six thousand years into a unique world of the author's making. Hardcover, \$18.95.

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...PREVIEWS: What's Hot, and What's About to Be

continued from previous page

demonstrates that homosexuality is not uniform across time. Instead, social beliefs about homosexuality stem from identifiable features in the societies in which they are found.

Through Other Eyes: Animal Stories by Women. Edited by Irene Zahava. Crossing Press.

Among the authors whose works are included: Annie Dillard, Dian Fossey, Sally Miller Gearhart, Ursula K. LeGuin, May Sarton and Alice Walker.

The Finer Grain. Denise Ohio. Tallahassee: Naiad.

Amy Walker, 19, is haunted by a recur-

Shadows of Love: American Gay Fiction. Edited by Charles Jurrust. Boston: Alyson. December.

Sixteen short stories by gay male writers from the United States and Canada.

Difficulties With Girls. Kingsley Amis. Summit. April.

Just about everyone in this novel has difficulties with "girls" in one form or another. There is Patrick Standish, who until recently a boys' Latin teacher and now an editor at Hammond & Sutcliffe. There is his boss, Giles, who can make one bottle of vodka do for brunch for 23 and offer up his wife to Patrick without batting an eye. There are Patrick's gay neighbors Stevie and Eric, and Tim, who wonders if he is gay. Into this little community move the Porter-Kings - he an impossible snob and she the kind of "girl" who causes difficulties.

James Baldwin: The Legacy. Edited by Quincy Troupe. Touchstone. April.

We Think the World of You. J.R. Ackerley. Poseidon Press. January.

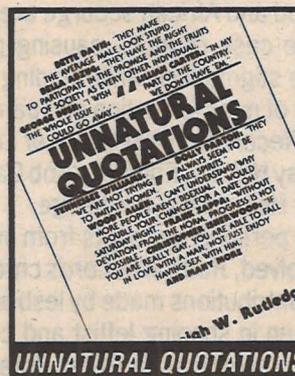
Diana Trilling (*Harper's* magazine) called Ackerley's autobiography *My Father and Myself* the "most directly personal report of what it is like to be a homosexual that...has yet been published." Out of print for years, Ackerley's novel *We Think the World of You* is being reissued to coincide with the release of a film version starring Alan Bates. It is the story of Frank, a cultivated middle-aged civil servant who becomes involved with a working-class family. His interest centers on Johnny, an attractive but aimless young man who has a devious wife, an engaging mother - and a magnificent dog, Evie. When Johnny is sentenced to 12 months in prison, Evie, who has a character all her own, becomes more and more important to Frank - and to the novel's surprising conclusion.

Unnatural Quotations. Leigh Rutledge. Boston: Alyson Publications.

Rutledge, author of *The Gay Book of Lists*, has compiled more than 600 homophobic (and homophobic) quotations from historical and contemporary figures - poets, philosophers, government officials and entertainers. Topics include growing up gay, passion, prejudice and AIDS.

Curzon in Love. Daniel Curzon. Knights Press.

The story of Daniel Curzon, a writer who decided at age 40 to write about the three men who had been his lovers. We first meet Curzon in 1975 at the height of the Gay Liberation Movement in San Francisco, where he describes with "grubby realism" his relationship with Jer. He moves next to a French lover's chateau, where he entertains readers using a comedy-of-manners style. Finally, we find him on a primitive island, where, borrowing the language of the *Arabian Nights*, he recounts having fallen in love with "Ja," the "flower of an



ring nightmare. She has a legacy - a house and a photo album - but her past is buried with Jesse, the woman who raised her. Amy sells the house and escapes to college, only to discover the reality of her nightmare in a women's studies class. Her attraction to the brash, openly lesbian Cady Baird only makes things more confusing.

Alive and Well. Cuca Hepburn and Bonnie Gutierrez. Crossing Press.

Hepburn and Gutierrez's goal was to present lesbians with a wide range of health care options, rather than to prescribe specific health care. Subjects covered include legal issues and options, nutrition, exercise, stress, relationships, mothering, aging, coming out, sexually transmitted diseases, homophobia, weight, drugs and alcohol.

Taking a Chance on God: Liberating Theology for Gays, Lesbians, and Their Lovers, Families, and Friends. John J. McNeill. Boston: Beacon.

McNeill is the Catholic theologian who criticized the Christian condemnation of homosexuality in his first book, *The Church and the Homosexual*. His first book since he was silenced by the Vatican 12 years ago and dismissed from the Society of Jesus in 1987, *Taking a Chance on God* is McNeill's response to the 1986 Vatican pastoral letter that called homosexuality an "objective disorder." "There is no condemnation of loving homosexual actions anywhere in Scripture," argues McNeill. He builds on this premise, outlining the differences between healthy and unhealthy approaches to religion, deals with anger, fear and guilt, and offers solace to gay Christians facing the threat of AIDS.



ancient race."

The Inner Room. James Merrill. Knopf. Pulitzer Prize and American Book Award winner Merrill's latest collection moves outward with settings in Florida, the Caribbean, Rome and Japan. The genres are as varied as the locations: In "Prose of Departure," he writes primarily in a prose sparingly but pungently laced with verse. A one-act play, "The Image Maker" is a sharply focused parable about a puppet-maker whose creations come alive.

The Silence Now: New and Uncollected Earlier Poems. May Sarton. Norton.

Sarton is now in her mid-70s and the title of her new poetry collection alludes to a theme of many of the poems: old age. It's a time when she has "more of everything to care for, to maintain." Her powers of observation have deepened: a cat's footfall on the stairs "speaks of an eternal Now." In beautifully simple language she speaks directly and with wisdom about grief, loneliness, death, coming to terms with one's life. There are topical poems as well, such as her inspirational hymn on the AIDS crisis and a sociological piece about the impact of the feminist movement on macho attitudes.

The Wind Spirit: An Autobiography. Michel Tournier. Boston: Beacon.

This powerful autobiography by one of France's leading writers was first published in 1977 but only now appears in English. Tournier describes his traumatic childhood in a "fiercely antiphysical society," his adolescence during the Nazi occupation, his postwar (and lifelong) love affair with German philosophy and his study of the psychology of twins. Mixed in with this narrative are reflections on themes such as the great philosophers, Robinson Crusoe and the difference between communism and socialism.

Out of All Time. Terry Bougner. Boston: Alyson Publications.

This collection of fifty vignettes of both well-known and less familiar historical figures, illustrated with caricatures by Michael Willhoite, provides an introductory, non-academic introduction to lesbian and gay history.

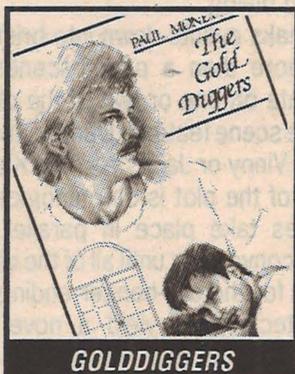
All the Muscle You Need. Diana McRae. Spinsters/Aunt Lute. December.

Eileen Goldeen hires lesbian detective Eliza Pirex to locate Ruth Gold, an old college friend who disappeared several years earlier. Clues and motives are carefully revealed, then complicated by developments such as switched identities. Eliza's location of Ruth is unexpected and chilling, and her credible decision to honor Ruth's wish that her whereabouts not be disclosed raises this above the average mystery.

The Psychoanalytic Theory of Male Homosexuality. Kenneth Lewes. Simon

and Schuster.

Kenneth Lewes discusses how Freud's original psychoanalytic ideals of understanding and compassion have often been betrayed by clinicians and theorists behav-



ing less like healers than like moralistic upholders of the status quo. Psychoanalysis slowly changed from a humane discipline into an insular and calcified orthodoxy; by the time of the Kinsey Report, psychoanalysis had little interest in other disciplines' fresh attempts to understand human sexuality, including homosexuality. Lewes chronicles the efforts within psychoanalysis to define homosexuality as a disease, as well as the changes in the larger society that eventually led to the American Psychiatric Association's decision to delete homosexuality from its list of psychiatric disorders.

Gays/Justice: A Study of Ethics, Society and Law. Richard D. Mohr. New York: Columbia University Press.

Mohr believes that lesbian and gay Americans have consistently and systematically been denied their basic constitutional and civil rights. "Gay justice does not exist and does not nearly exist," Mohr writes. "The nation's institutional means for establishing justice - the courts - have completely failed in their duty when it has come to the plight of gays. Indeed, they have now become a major part of the mechanisms of gay oppression." Mohr examines the oppression of gay men and lesbians in America today, offers programs for change and in his concluding chapter rallies readers to political action.

Under Heat. Michael David Brown. New American Library. January.

This is the dark story of a man who goes home to rural Kentucky for a vacation but finds his return to the family anything but restorative. Dean is gay and newly sober, and has an unspecified job in New Orleans. Neither he, his alcoholic brother nor his mother, who drinks to deal with her husband's suicide, are given a surname. Dean is drawn into a drug deal at the behest of his brother; he seduces a young man and is bashed about for his homosexuality.

Eighty-sixed. January

This first novel by a New York City mathematician records the changes in gay life
continued on next page

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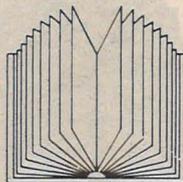
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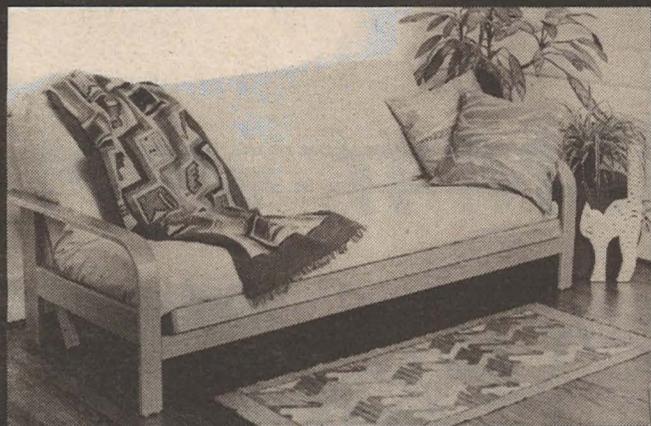
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...Review:

Willyce Kim's *Dead Heat*

continued from page 5

brings them together through a chain of events that is wildly improbable and often wildly funny.

Kim's writing is spare and tough, with almost no description and language that has echos of hardboiled detective novels. Sentences are simple, short and choppy, full of action and dialog.

She breaks events down into brief (usually no more than a page) scenes that concentrate on one or two of the characters. If one scene features Dancer, the next will cut to Vinny or Janes and the Kid. The progress of the plot is chronological, but the scenes take place in parallel time, gradually converging until all of the characters meet for the cliff-hanger ending.

These techniques yield a novel that, despite providing little information about what people or places look like, is oddly cinematic.

The characters, too, are tough and street-wise. They drink to drown their troubles, curse, bet on horses, carry guns. You know without being told that the women wear leather jackets and tight black jeans (or spike heels and lacy black

slips).

But Kim doesn't seem to intend that we take all of this toughness literally. For one thing, the wisest and most together character in *Dead Heat* is a talking (and mind reading) dog.

Killer Shep is the Kid's arthritic German shepherd. She slyly watches over the humans, helping solve their problems and providing companionship. When Dancer drinks herself into oblivion, Killer Shep stands guard. When the women are mired in their various crises, Killer Shep gives advice.

Killer Shep talks to all of the women; her ability to converse is never questioned. Kim's seemingly serious use of an obviously ridiculous situation brings into question how serious she is about everything else.

It seems clear that Kim is having fun taking some stereotypical lesbian attitudes down a notch, satirizing a few lesbian sacred cows:

"I'm only treating you to my astute analysis of the situation," Killer Shep says. "You are, after all, my flock." *~*~*~*

PREVIEWS:

What's Hot, and What's About to Be

continued from previous page

styles precipitated by AIDS between 1980 and 1986. Diary-like monthly reports describe the narrator's romantic and sexual experiences and his attempts to come to terms with the spectre of death in his life.

Men on Men 2: Best New Gay Fiction. New York: Plume Fiction.

George Stambolian's second anthology of gay fiction, representing 18 writers, including Gary Glickman ("Magic"), Joseph Pintauro ("Jungle Dove") and Allan Gurganus ("Adult Art"). AIDS and New York's gay community are central to many stories, including "Solidarity," a previously unpublished work by Albert Innaurato, and Christopher Davis's "The Boys in the Bars."

The Prosperine Papers. Jan Clausen. Crossing Press.

Dale McNab, a lesbian-feminist academic who is mired in romantic and professional crises, finds escape by visiting her 90-year-old grandmother, Rose, on the pretext of helping her organize her papers and diaries. As Dale looks through the journals, she comes upon photos and correspondence with Prosperine Munkers, Rose's closest childhood friend. Prosperine's papers reveal a singular woman who was a lesbian, radical and writer. Dale's goal shifts to writing a book on Prosperine, but she struggles with Rose's puritan ethics over access to the papers.

Equal Affections. David Leavitt. Weidenfeld and Nicolson. January.

Leavitt's second novel follows the Cooper family - Louise, whose long battle (and eventual death) with lymphatic cancer is

the center of the novel, her husband Nat, daughter April and son Danny. Nat seeks solace from his mistress for his lost dreams. April tries to reconcile her position as a prominent feminist with her bisexuality. Danny, a lawyer, lives in New Jersey with his long-time lover Walt. Leavitt focuses primarily on Danny, how his family connections effect his relationship with Walt, but all of the characters are given complete, affectionate attention.

That Singular Person Called Lear: A Biography. Susan Chitty. Atheneum. January.

The first biography of landscape painter and limerick writer Edward Lear to be published in nearly 20 years. Chitty begins with the six happiest weeks of Lear's life, the spring of 1849 when he and his great love Frank Lushington traveled together, then goes backward to his unhappy childhood, his years in Italy and Greece, his subsequent life on the Riviera.

Trash. Dorothy Allison. Firebrand.

Allison's 14 stories concern being "a cross-eyed working-class lesbian, addicted to violence, language and hope," rebelling against her "poor white trash" South Carolina roots.

Macho Sluts. Pat Califia. Boston: Alyson Publications.

Sure to be controversial in its portrayal of sadomasochism, Califia's collection of erotic fiction explores graphic lesbian sexual fantasy. Califia argues that a sexual politic which prevents women from choosing S&M does little more than define consent as "mature," "socially acceptable" and "politically correct." *~*~*~*



COUPLES

By **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

Robyn and Terry Kevlin tell a funny story about shopping at a Nashville-area Walgreens.

It seems that when the two approached the counter to pay for their purchases, the clerk appeared somewhat on edge. Robyn took out her checkbook to pay the young man, while Terry examined the various and sundry point-of-purchase impulse items displayed so prominently in the store.

As Robyn handed the clerk her check, he rather nervously asked if she had appeared on television earlier in the week, in a report on same-sex couples.

"Yeah, that was us," she replied, not really knowing what to expect next.

Terry, Robyn's partner and lover for the past three and a half years, turned her attention away from the Ray-O-Vac batteries and tubes of Chap Stick, expecting to be confronted by yet another homophobic attack.

"I thought that was you. You were really great. I can't wait to go home and tell everybody I actually met you," the young man gushed.

"We couldn't believe it!" Terry remembers. "He was thrilled just to be meeting us."

The Kevlins' chance encounter with the young man behind the counter at a local Walgreen's only seemed to underscore the reaction of family, friends and co-workers to the pair's appearances on two Nashville television stations.

Coming just after National Coming Out Day festivities in the state's capital city, the television reports on the Kevlins attempted to give the viewing public a more balanced, even-handed look at same sex couples.

In the lesbian and gay community, couples present something of a paradox. In some circles, they are revered role models. In others, being a part of a couple can mean social suicide.

But like their heterosexual counterparts, lesbian and gay couples are faced with a variety of issues that sometimes complicate, sometimes simplify their lives. Unlike heterosexual couples, however, lesbian and gay couples may find themselves faced with a myriad of new and challenging obstacles which exist solely because of their sexual orientation.

Lesbian and gay couples are often isolated from not only other segments of society in general, but also from other members of the lesbian and gay culture. As a result, lesbian and gay couples are mapping out new types of

relationships — relationships without role models. Lesbian and gay couples, unlike male/female couples, cannot look to their parents for a design for living.

Because of the difference in the dynamics of the types of relationships, same-sex couples must forge new territories as they seek to define their "pairing" in new and unique terms. Same sex couples may find it harder to gain acceptance from their peers. Heterosexual couples are, instead, a fact of life — look at June and Ward Cleaver or Lucy and Ricky Ricardo.

Due to the fact that networking for lesbians and gay men is sometimes so difficult in a predominantly heterosexual society, same sex couples may discover that fact is compounded by virtue of the fact that they are part of a couple.

Many of the difficulties which plague lesbian and gay couples may center on the rather obvious differences — money, education, employment, age — that can cause countless upheavals.

A difference as simple as how to refer to each other can lead to a knock-down, drag-out fight. Lover, partner, friend, roommate, husband, wife, squeeze, better half, significant other. What do you call that other person who keeps you awake by reading in bed until all hours? It's not as easy as it may seem.

Editor's note: This is the third in a series on same-sex couples. Next: a look at what counselors have to say about making a relationship work. For more information on same-sex relationships, Book Editor Sherre Dryden suggests these books:

A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples. Hayden Curry. 5th revised edition. Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press, 1988. 250p. \$17.95 paper.

Lesbian Couples. G. Dorsey Green and D. Merilee Clunis. Seattle: Seal Press, 1988. 260p. \$10.95 paper.

The Male Couple's Guide to Living Together: What Gay Men Should Know about Living with Each Other and Coping in a Straight World. Eric Marcus. NY: Harper and Row, 1988. 288p. \$18.95, \$8.95 paper.

Permanent Partners: Building Gay and Lesbian Relationships That Last. Betty Berzon. NY: E.P. Dutton, 1988. 356p. \$19.95.

The Male Couple: How Relationships Develop. David P. McWhirter and Andrew M. Mattison. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1985. 334p. \$7.95 paper.

Man to Man: Gay Couples in America. Charles Silverstein. NY: Morrow, 1981. 384p. \$12.95, \$8.95 paper.

The Two Of Us: Affirming, Celebrating, and Symbolizing Gay and Lesbian Relationships. Carry Uhrig. Boston: Alyson, 1984. 140p. \$6.95 paper. •

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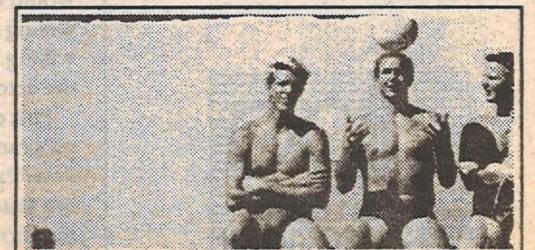
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Views

Pornography and Censorship

A NEW GROUP has formed in Nashville, the Nashville Coalition Against Pornography (NCAP), whose stated purpose is to eliminate illegal pornography, which the group says is anything that depicts ultimate sex acts: intercourse, sodomy, cunnilingus or fellatio.

While they point to the relationship between pornography and violence, they do their own cause injustice by doing so cynically. The group has not made any mention of attempting to work against glorification of violence. If NCAP is truly sincere about reducing violence, especially sexual violence, they would also be aiming their efforts at network television and movie glorification of violence.

But that is not what they are really doing.

NCAP, which has modeled itself on the radical right-wing National Coalition Against Pornography, really wants to impose the moral standards of its members on the public. They wish to decide for the rest of us what films we may see, what magazines we can look at, and what books we can read. Who knows when they will decide to try to tell us which newspapers we can read? In spite of anything they may say, any patriotic icon they invoke, that is not the American way.

While we most emphatically deplore violence, especially sexual violence, the answer is not to ban films and books or to censor, but to work to educate society about the evils of violence.

And the evils of intolerance. •

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A Republican Responds

Dear *Dare*:

I am deeply saddened and distressed by your recent editorial, "Shame," in the November 11-17 issue of *Dare*.

I am from a family that has always embraced gay women and men. My first memories include dinner parties (in the 60s) where gay and lesbian couples were welcomed and encouraged to be who they were. My first "gourmet" dinner was prepared by a lesbian woman who lived in the guest room of our home rent free because her parents would not accept her. My mother, Peggy Way, was the first recipient of the Pearl M. Hart award presented by the Mattachine Society of Chicago for her efforts (not at all stylish at the time) to further society's understanding and compassion of lesbians and gay men.

Yet we are a Republican family. We are a conservative Republican family. We are Reagan Republicans. And we all voted for

George Bush!

I believe that your *article*, and not the fact that many gay men and lesbian women voted Republican, is reprehensible. I was taught that pluralism in *any* group, society or organization is to be applauded and encouraged. Because they are a minority group, America's homosexuals and lesbians are made up of Republicans and Democrats; poor and rich; educated and illiterate; Hispanics and Blacks; Swedes and Germans; Jews and gentiles; young adults and senior citizens, and liberals and conservatives. I find the very idea of grouping one segment of American population, i.e. gays and lesbians, into a single political block, exclusive.

To me, your editorial sounded like you have somehow missed the past eight years. Gay and lesbian rights have not suffered at all under the Reagans. In fact, if we can be objective, never before has a First Family been as open towards

gays. Rock Hudson and Way Bandy, both Reagan intimates, died of AIDS and were mourned by the First Family. You must realize that, after years in Hollywood, the Reagans have been exposed to and dealt with lesbians and gay men since before I was born. And I'm sure that their attitude has been one of love and concern. Your editorial suggesting that George Bush will be any different is divisive and unwelcome.

I am frankly bewildered by the tone of the editorial which states that gays that voted for Bush/Quayle "preferred the coddling of a Republican administration whose main concerns will be those of the wealthy." In the future, please remember that the concerns of the gay community are the concerns of all; to many gays and lesbians, Tuesday, November 8, 1988 was *terrific*.

STEVEN W. WAY

Nashville

Curtains

Peter Pan: Holiday at Playhouse

By STUART BIVIN

Editor

I had a terrible secret crush on this guy I went to high school with. A group of us went to see a community-theater production of *Peter Pan*. Mr. Wonderful promptly dubbed me "Tinkerbell." So much for *that*.

Of course, the folks at Playhouse on the Square didn't know about my adolescent trauma when they decided to stage *Peter Pan* for the holidays. They've done a pretty fair job with a difficult proposition: in this age of supercomputer-generated movie special effects, how do you hold the interest of an audience with a live performance of fantasy?

It's obvious that you can't do it with electronic gimcrackery, unless you're Michael Jackson, or have his money. And, besides, that would defeat the purpose of live theatre. The willing suspension of disbelief has to be that—willing. And that requires some kind of faith in the actors, faith that has to be earned.

First of all, Rebecca Klingler (or Klinger—the program lists her both ways) was a pretty good Peter Pan. I saw the X cast's version, so I didn't see Bates Brooks, who originated the role in the show's Memphis premier. Brooks did pop in as Tiger Lily, and did a good job with a fairly confining role. The two swap roles in the Y cast

show.

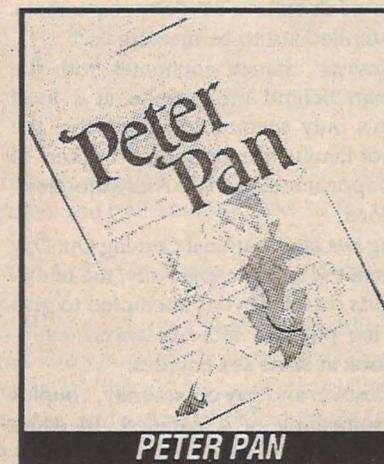
The rest of the X cast was okay. Jutta Vivian Dinkelacker played Wendy very well. She was quite convincing as the motherly sister.

Peter Colburn as Captain Hook was faboo. He was the single most believable actor. His Hook was the consummate bully: alternately threatening and whining, he somehow managed to work some real menace into a two-dimensional role. Amid all the silliness with the crocodile (or alligator or whatever it is) and the curls and lace, I wasn't sure just how harmless Hook really was.

Now, I would be derelict in my duty if I didn't talk about Mark Enright as the lovable Mr. Smee. I couldn't decide whether to be offended by all the swishing and lispings or not. It was funny, but.

But why is it that directors keep pulling out these stupid old clichés and pasting them onto villains. The intimation that Hook and Smee have a little something going on the side, and that that makes them all the more fun to hate, is just too much. The message is clear: these are bad guys, and not real men, either.

I realize that the show is primarily aimed at kids. And that's why it bothers me. It's just the wrong message: queers are villains. Let's laugh at them, and then throw them overboard.



Other than that, everything was fine. Costumes, lights, and Curtis C.'s and Cynthia Smithers' wonderfully witty choreography were all on target. And except for the subliminal stuff, Ken Zimmerman did a fine job directing. Just getting all those children going in the same direction at the same time is an accomplishment.

All in all, the show succeeds on the merits of its theatre craft. Tinkerbell is a red flashlight, and you can see the flight cables. No retreat behind flashy technology. Just solid acting, singing and dancing. •

Sociables

On the Pilgrimage

By JAAN STURGIS
Staff Writer

Turkey day may seem but a memory, but it's one of America's most widely celebrated, and anticipated, holidays. But where did everyone go?

Dearhearts, everyone's friend Tammy Willard entertained prominent 37205er Frank Ashe and those omnipresent boys and political activists Sam Adams and Krys Krakoviak. Sam was at his holiday best wearing his "holiday" eyes. What does that mean? Max Factor? Charles of the Ritz? What?

Ray Harrison cut meat at a smorgasbord and claims he carved five turkeys. Truly a meaty experience.

Steve Jenks — a native Memphian — sold beer, gasoline, cigarettes and chicken. Yes, chicken. What an interesting thing to do, especially on a holiday and especially if the vice squad is no where to be found.

Alan Jewell had his mommy dearest in from Paducah and bought the turkey and fixings from MegaMarket. Highlights of their day included a walk through Radnor Lake's Wildlife Area where he said the crowd was so thick that he could hardly decide which man he liked best. Decisions, decisions! And then the ride of their lives in the elevator at the Stouffer.

Happy couple Harrison Hicks and Mitchell Patton ate at the MCC potluck, then proceeded to Centennial Park for some playground-equipment antics. Some people have to work off their dinners before it goes to their hips.

Nashville-newcomer John Aucon spent his holiday with Tim Roberts and Billy Isaacs. Billy baked the bird and all partook. Speaking of Tim, his GRE scores came back and my mouth still hasn't closed. The dear boy got a 730 (out of a possible 800), placing him in the top three percent of the days test-ees. Hats are off to you, Tim. May all your dreams come true in grad school! Just remember, the Miss America pageant is limited to entrants between 17 and 26.

Dare's daring darlings, Stuart Bivin and Jeff Ellis, took off to west Tennessee for a down-home holiday with Mama Ellis and her clan in Bethel Springs. Word is Mrs. E. (Jewell to her friends, Mama Ellis to Jeff's) know how to prepare a feast. Our daring duo chowed. And Stuart (last public sighting: judging the hotly-contested Miss Warehouse 28 pageant — kudos to stunning winner Shelly Stone) was thrilled to shop at Wal-Mart Discount City.

The next evening, they played the sex-trivia game at WKRB in Memphis (did Betty really have to tell them the answers?), before heading off to cruise Oak Court Mall. They said to be sure and say hello to the truly friendly Donna Wade at Goldsmith's Lancôme counter and to Kelly James at Maggie's Pharm — the place for the herbal set.

Spending Thanksgiving in Mt. Juliet and celebrating the pilgrims' progress at the home of Will and Brenda Campbell were Penny Campbell 'n' Devie Levin, Ann Taylor and Mat Trotter. The Campbells are Penny's folks, of course. Did you know that the Rev. Campbell — widely respected author and activist — was the inspiration for the Rev. Will B. Dunn in the comic strip *Kudzu*?

Who's been visiting Nashville again? Did you see him this past weekend? Our very own Terry Ralston has imported — at least temporarily — Atlanta's Loyal Charles, come to share

a little turkey and cheer.

Where should you be this weekend? Well, according to the head of the MCC Christmas Bazaar, you should be there, from 10 a.m. on into the evening when the Mortgage Meal begins (7:30-ish). What'll you find? All those little gifts you might need to give to friends and acquaintances at this time of year. The best part is that nothing is over \$5. Why not get in your buggy and boogy on over?

Why haven't you seen me out and about lately? Well, dearhearts, I made my annual pilgrimage to the homelands — Davenport, Iowa, with stopovers in St. Louis and Springfield, Illinois.

While in St. Louis I visited with former Nashvillian Dwayne Estes, who is now attending Webster College in Webster, Missouri, and his cute, pert! lover Dale Wrigley. Dwayne swept me off my feet minutes after my arrival to cheer him on at the Front Page, a pub where Dwayne plays the piano. After perusing the bar carefully, I determined I was the youngest person there. Imagine! We're talking dinosaurs!

Anyway, I chatted up the locals since the Front Page is a neighborhood kind of pub. Bob Davis and his husband sang along as Dwayne banged out "Blessed Assurance" and "Climb Every Mountain" to a dedicated — ye, dearhearts — inebriated audience.

I chatted with banker Willie Meadows, who said he lives in one of the finest Edwardian style homes (erected in 1902) in St. Louis. He said brick was a common building material there because of the brick factories and that you rarely see a clapboard house in the city center. Willie's favorite food: sauerkraut and bratwurst. His favorite color: blue. His favorite Monkee: Peter. His favorite Brady kid: Peter. His favorite thing: Pet-... Oh you get the drift.

From St. Louis, I was bound for glory. Well, Davenport actually, where I was greeted by Mama Liz and her hubby Ron.

My old friend J.C. Holland hasn't been so perky in years! I swear that although he persists in saying he's 39, this time he really looked it. He says he's forsaken sex for money. Sure.

The gold-dust twins, Chris Kennedy and Ron Fowler, were as talkative as all get-out. They wined and dined me for the bulk of Sunday and then insisted I come back later so that we could go pub crawling at Madison Square — Davenport's answer to the GasLite Lounge at the Towne House.

Before my nighttime escapade with the gold-dust twins, I had to visit cheery Kurt Stevens and Michael Naab. Kurt, a long-time Davenport city planner, told me he plans to forsake his career to open a bed and breakfast in the Gold Coast area of the city. With all the fests that Chris and Ron tell me Davenport hosts during warmer weather, there should be lots of tourists for Kurt's new ventures. Asked what his time line was, he responded with the rhetorical question of what mine was to get a job in my field. Oh well, all good things come to those who wait.

But all was not blissful because one of our mutual friends, Larry Nurse, has gone beyond this plane of life. We'll miss him.

Well, dearhearts, with the holiday season in the air, where have you been partying? Have you been out and about — in Memphis and/or Nashville or anywhere else for that matter? Let me hear! Ring me at (615) 226-4034. •

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