

# Dare

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 37

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

SEPTEMBER 15 - 21, 1989

## Nkoli:

"People have more freedom here..."

by JEFF ELLIS  
Editor

There is no twilight in South Africa.

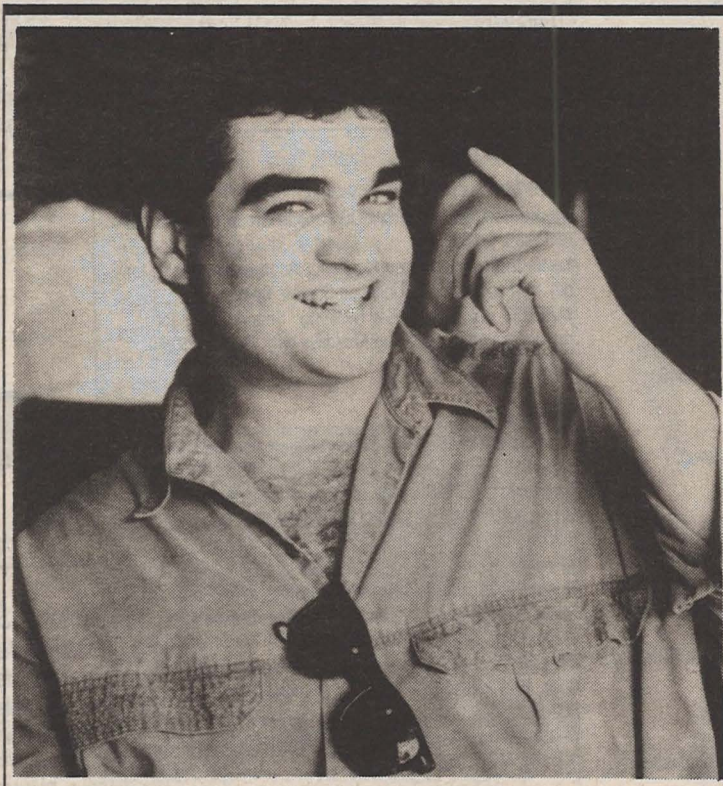
When the blinding rays of the sun disappear at day's end, there is sudden darkness. The journey from the brightness of the afternoon sun to the deep shadows of night is a brief one, taking you almost unawares.

The jarring shift from daylight to nighttime in South Africa seems to symbolize the struggles between white and black, the fight to abolish the system of apartheid — the age-old caste system which gives power to the colonial white minority and strips the black majority of most semblances of dignity.

It is from that anachronistic world that Simon Nkoli comes to America, ostensibly to raise funds for the Township AIDS Project, but perhaps more importantly to raise the consciousness of Americans as well.

"Since I've been in America, I haven't had a chance to really see America," Nkoli (pronounced "en-ko-dee") reports in the melodic tones of his homeland. "Since arriving in San Francisco, I've been absolutely busy. I've been taken by surprise that people have more freedoms here. People have been very friendly."

A committed anti-apartheid activist, the openly-gay Nkoli was one of the 22 defendants in the notorious Delmas Treason Trial in South Africa. Acquitted of all charges in November, 1988, Nkoli is now touring North America for the first time, including a visit last weekend to Memphis, hosted by that city's chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT).



Shane Caldwell will emcee Sunday's *Dare* First Night Theatre Awards at the Z. Alexander Looby Theatre, 2301 Metrocenter Blvd., Nashville. Caldwell is co-star of THE SYLVAN BROTHERS COMEDY HOUR on Nashville Community Access Television. — DARE PHOTO BY SUSAN BRUNINGA

Throughout his journey across America, Nkoli has been asked time and again by concerned individuals here, "What can we do about apartheid?"

But, because of strict South African treason laws, Nkoli is unable to effectively answer those questions.

"I'm not allowed to say anything to people about what they should do to speak out about apartheid," he explains. "I want to go back home when my tour ends. My mission here is not to encourage people to fight apartheid, but rather to thank the people in this country who have been so supportive of me."

And for a man who never imagined himself in the limelight or considered himself a leader of any cause — whether it's lesbian and

• continued on page 4

## Alternative insemination to be discussed

by MARK LAWRENCE  
Staff Writer

The Vanderbilt Lambda Association and the Vanderbilt Gay and Lesbian Law Student Association are co-sponsoring a seminar on issues related to having children through alternative methods of insemination.

The program, entitled "Alternative Insemination: Legal, Medical and Psychosocial Issues for Lesbians, Gay Men and Single Parents," will be held at 7 p.m. next Thursday, Sept. 21, in room 117 of the Vanderbilt Law School. It is billed as being for "lesbians, gay men and single parents interested in learning about alternative insemination."

Speakers will include Deane Olivia, a clinical psychologist who will discuss psychosocial issues surrounding the decision to have a child through alternative insemination. Linda Johnson, an OB/GYN nurse, will discuss the available medical options.

Two speakers, local attorney Abby Rubinfeld and Vanderbilt Law Professor Ellen Clayton, will discuss legal issues. "When people make this choice ... they don't always think through the legal ramifications," said Rubinfeld.

Rubinfeld will focus on the problems that can arise during and after the process of having a child by artificial insemination, and on letting the audience know how to "anticipate and avoid those problems."

Documents are often drawn up to deal in advance with such issues as whether a biological parent may visit the child, Rubinfeld said, but added, "There are real questions about their enforceability."

She said Clayton's presentation will focus on ways that the government might intervene in the process. "There are different ways the state may become involved in your decision-making process," said Rubinfeld.

There will be a reception following the program. •

## ISAE convenes

More than 600 take part in Nashville meet

by JEFF ELLIS  
Editor

More than 600 AIDS educators from some 24 countries were in Tennessee this week for the Third International Conference on Education at the Nashville Convention Center and Stouffer Hotel.

The conference is the annual meeting of the International Society for AIDS Education and was co-sponsored by Vanderbilt AIDS Project (VAP); the Grubb Institute of Great Britain; International Disciplinary AIDS Foundation of Switzerland; the Carolina AIDS Research and Education Project; the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine of Meharry Medical College; the Brazilian Interdisciplinary AIDS Association; and the East Central Education and Training Center.

During a press conference which opened the conference Sunday, ISAE President A. Gene Copello of Vanderbilt University, noted the

importance of education for rural Southerners about AIDS.

"Individuals can take control of AIDS. AIDS does not exist in a vacuum, it exists in a social context. Nations must work with each other because AIDS knows not international boundaries or city lines."

Michael Bennett, president of the Nashville Association of People With AIDS, blamed the media for atypical portrayals of people with AIDS, saying media attention is only focused on PWAs during the last stages of the disease.

"I've been living with for two and a half years and I am just as healthy as I was two and a half years ago," Bennett said.

Also participating in the press conference was Donna Richter, of the University of South Carolina, who will succeed Copello as president.

Next year's conference is set for San Juan, Puerto Rico. •

## Educating lesbian and gay youth

Reaching lesbian and gay youth to provide them with information about AIDS was the topic of a roundtable discussion during Monday afternoon's session of the International Society for AIDS Education's Nashville conference.

The session, led by Matt Nelson, director of AIDS Education for the Tennessee Department of Health

and Environment, attracted some 18 educators from around the country to share ideas and suggestions for outreach to adolescents.

Among topics discussed was an upcoming report to be published in the December, 1989, issue of SUICIDE AND LIFE-THREATENING BEHAVIORS, THE JOURNAL OF SUICIDOLOGISTS. In that

• continued on page 5

## I N S I D E

Dare this week

Big Brothers is watching you:  
homos need not apply.  
Centerpiece, page 6.



Leather chicks and long-dead boys:  
books we'll get letters about.  
Pages, page 9.

Would someone  
please read to Mel Perry?  
Quotes, page 12.





## D A T E S

## Just like clockwork

## Chattanooga

## Sundays

**Metropolitan Community Church** Worship service, Unitarian Church. 7:30pm.

## Mondays

**Chattanooga CARES** Closed support group. 6:30pm. Info 615 266-2422.

## Thursdays

**Gay/Lesbian AA** Open meeting. Unitarian Church. 8pm.

## Johnson City

## Sundays

**Metropolitan Community Church** Worship service, 7pm. Holston Valley Unitarian Church. Info 615 926-4393.

## Knoxville

## Sundays

**Metropolitan Community Church** Worship service, 6pm. Corner Weisgarber & Lomas. Info 615 521-6546.

## Mondays

**aids Response Knoxville** PWA Support Group, 7-8:30pm. Info 615 523-AIDS.

## Tuesdays

**aids Response Knoxville** Circle of Love family and friends support group, 8pm. Info 615 523-AIDS.  
**Gay and Lesbian Student Union/UTK** Weekly meeting, 8pm.  
**Knoxville's Ten Percent** Monthly meeting, 2nd Tuesday only, 8pm. 1320 N. Central. Info 615 521-6546.

## Wednesdays

**aids Response Knoxville** HIV+ Support Group, 6:30pm. Info 615 523-AIDS.

## Memphis

## Mondays

**Gay Alternative Hour** Radio show, WEVL-FM 90, 6-7pm.  
**Phoenix** (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 272-9549.

## Tuesdays

**Phoenix** (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30 and 8pm. Info 901 272-9549.

## Wednesdays

**Phoenix** (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 272-9549.

## 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 901 272-9549.  
**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 901 272-9549.  
**Seriously Sober** (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 272-9549.

## 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 901 272-9549.

## Sundays

**Agape New Life Church** Sunday School, 9:30am. Worship service, 11am. Info 901 276-1872.  
**Holy Trinity Community Church** Worship service,

11am. 1216 Forrest Ave. Info 901 726-9443.

**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 901 272-9549.

## Murfreesboro

## Thursdays

**MTSU Lambda** Support group for lesbian and gay students, faculty, staff and alumni of Middle Tennessee State University. 7:30pm. Info 615 352-7039

## Nashville

## Mondays

**Nashville CARES** ARC/AIDS 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. 7:30pm. Info 615 320-0288.

## Tuesdays

**Nashville CARES** HIV+ Support Group. 6pm. Info 615 385-1510.  
**Vanderbilt AIDS Project** Story and Poetry Support Group (for PWAs), West End United Methodist Church. 6:30pm. Info 615 322-2252.  
**AI-Anon** Closed meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.  
**Nashville Women's Alliance** Meeting, at the Book Oasis, 2824 Dogwood Pl. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays only. 7:30pm. Info 615 292-7100.  
**P-FLAG** Meeting of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 4th Tuesday only. Unitarian Church. 7:30pm. Info 615 662-0332.  
**Sober Sisters** (Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, MCC. 8pm.

## Wednesdays

**Sex Addicts Anonymous** Closed meeting for gay men and lesbians. MCC. 5:30pm.  
**Nashville CARES** Newcomers Group. 6pm. Info 615 385-1510.  
**Affirmation** Meeting for lesbian and gay United Methodists. 4th Wednesday only. 7pm. Info 615 366-6448.  
**Gay/Lesbian Addictions Anonymous** Meeting, Belmont United Methodist Church. 8pm.

## Thursdays

**Incest Survivors Anonymous** Closed women's meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd. 6:30pm.  
**Nashville CARES** Visualization Group. 7:15pm. 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.

## Fridays

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

## Saturdays

**Incest Survivors Anonymous** Open meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd. 5:30pm.  
**Metropolitan Community Church** Community Dinner, all you can eat. 7:30pm. \$5. Info 615 320-0288.

## Sundays

**Metropolitan Community Church** Worship services, 11am and 7pm. Info 615 320-0288.  
**Incest Survivors Anonymous** Closed meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd. 6pm.

## Big events

## Saturday, September 16

**Flea Market and Car Wash** Sponsored by Music City Sports Association. Cars, \$3. Trucks, vans, \$5. Begins 8 am. Warehouse 28, 2529 Franklin Rd, Nashville. Info 615 361-3454.

**Benefit Feuding Fairies.** Fundraiser for Gay Cable Network/Nashville. *Dare* v. GCN. At Gas Lite Lounge, 167-1/2 8th Ave N, Nashville.

**Video Night** Sponsored by Black and White Men Together / Memphis. 8pm. Info 901 452-5894.

**Women's Dance** Sponsored by Random Productions. Beer, setups available. Laurel Theatre, 1538 Laurel Ave, Knoxville. \$4. 8pm Info 615 688-3428.



## Sunday, September 17

**Exhibit Opening** *Artifacts Personal and Historical.* Through October 13 Works of James-Ben Stockton, at O'More College of Design, Abbey Leix Gallery, 423 South Margin St, Franklin. Reception 2-5pm. Info 615 794-4254.

**Dare First Night Theatre Awards** Benefit for Nashville CARES. At Z. Alexander Looby Theatre, Metro Center Blvd, Nashville. \$10. 7:30pm. Info 615 327-Dare.

## Monday, September 18

**Consciousness Raising** *Reflections and Reverberations of Simon Nkoli's Visit to Memphis.* Sponsored by Black and White Men Together / Memphis. 7:30pm. Info 901 726-1461.

## Thursday, September 21

**Lecture** *Alternative Insemination: Legal, Medical and Psychosocial Issues.* Room 117, Vanderbilt Law School, Nashville. Sponsored by Vanderbilt Gay and Lesbian Law Students Association. 7pm. Reception follows.

## Monday, September 25

**Consciousness Raising** *Why Should We Be Concerned about the Abortion Issue?* At Main Library, corner of Peabody and McLean, Memphis. Sponsored by Black and White Men Together / Memphis. 7:30pm. Info 901 726-1461.

## Tuesday, September 26

**Lecture** *The Erotic Still Life: Tossed-off Shoes and Neckties.* Slide lecture on use of shoes and ties as sensual messages in art, films and ads. Helen Dickinson Baldwin, Vanderbilt Sarraff 118, Nashville. Sponsored by Vanderbilt Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center. Free. 12:15pm. Info 615 322-4843.

Your nonprofit event can be listed free in Dates. Write to *Dare*, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422, or phone 615 327-Dare 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. Deadline noon Tuesday for publication next Friday.

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 Licensed Clinical Psychologist

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## Gay/Lesbian Therapy Group

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 Steve Davidson, LCSW  
 (615) 391-0222  
 Dorothy Stockard, ACSW  
 (615) 360-7826

Joan Furman-Seaborg, M.S.N., R.N.

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## People to turn to.

Chattanooga Council on AIDS Resources,  
 Education and Services (**Chattanooga CARES**)  
 Box 8402, Chattanooga, TN 37411  
 call (615) 266-2422

aids Response Knoxville (**ARK**)  
 Box 3932, Knoxville, TN 37927  
 call (615) 523-AIDS

Aids to End AIDS Committee (**ATEAC**)  
 Box 40389, Memphis, TN 38174  
 M-F 3:30 pm - 11 pm Sat, Sun 7:30 pm - 11 pm  
 call (901) 458-AIDS  
 Answering service 24 hours call (901) 762-8401

Nashville Council on AIDS Resources,  
 Education and Services (**Nashville CARES**)  
 Box 25107, Nashville, TN 37202  
 Education call (615) 385-AIDS For information on  
 individual or group counseling, call (615) 385-1510

this ad appears as a public service of *Dare*



## BRIEFS

compiled by MARK LAWRENCE

**Battered lesbian convicted**

WEST PALM BEACH, FL — A jury refused to accept Annette Green's use of the "battered spouse" defense in her trial for shooting her lover, Ivonne Julio. The trial was the first time a lesbian had attempted to use the battered spouse defense, which has been used in the past by women who claimed they were driven into killing an abusive husband or lover.

Green shot her lover of 11 years following an argument on Oct. 30, 1988. Green's attorney claimed Julio had beaten and abused Green for years. Palm Beach Circuit Judge Tome Waddell ruled that the type of relationship did not prevent the use of the battered spouse defense.

Green was found guilty of second-degree murder. The prosecution sought a conviction for first-degree murder, but the jury decided that the shooting was not premeditated. •

**Big Brothers can't discriminate in D.C.**

Editor's note: please see related story on page 6.

WASHINGTON — The Office of Human Rights has ruled that Big Brothers cannot discriminate on the grounds of sexual orientation. The group had claimed to be exempt from the D.C. Human Rights Act because it is a volunteer non-profit organization, according to BALTIMORE GAYPAPER.

Jeffrey Gould, an area health educator, filed a complaint that he was not allowed to participate in the Big Brothers program because he was gay. He applied to the program in July 1988. When he was rejected, he was told that the group did not accept gay men.

Gould said he was at first told by Big Brothers officials that the group did not discriminate, even though the application materials asked specifically about sexual orientation. •

**USSR: sodomy OK?**

MOSCOW, USSR — The most recent draft of planned revisions of the Soviet criminal code does not include an anti-sodomy statute, indicating that the government intends to legalize homosexual acts.

Svend Robinson, an openly gay member of Canada's parliament, recently visited the Soviet Union and said officials there intend to legalize gay male sex "in a matter of a few months." Lesbian sex is already legal.

However, Robinson reported to delegates at the 11th World Conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association that Soviet homosexuals still had many difficulties. "There's nowhere to make love," he said. "If you happen to own your own apartment, it almost become a hotel." •

**Lawyer attacks "gay" broadcaster**

MIAMI — Local radio broadcaster Neil Rogers has succeeded in getting a restraining order issued against a man who has been attempting to force him off the air. Jack

Thompson, an attorney in Coral Gables, has been campaigning against Rogers, who he claims promotes homosexuality, according to Florida's THE WEEKLY NEWS.

Thompson has made charges to more than a dozen state and local agencies that Rogers' broadcasts are obscene. None of the agencies have accepted his claims, but radio station WIOD, Rogers' employer, has filed a \$26 million lawsuit against Thompson. The station says his vendetta has driven away advertisers and cost thousands of dollars in legal fees.

"It is amazing how one person can spread these lies ... and we end up paying," said Rogers. He claims that Thompson is obsessed with him and has threatened him physically.

Thompson denies these charges. "I don't believe I'm obsessed by the man. I'm concerned about what he does," he said. "The man is a public nuisance." •



Janis Ian will sing in the Nashville performance of *Heart Strings* later this month. The fundraiser for AIDS-service organization will also be performed in Memphis. — DARE FILE PHOTO

**Gannett refuses les/gay ads, wins suit**

GREEN BAY, WI — A judge has ruled that newspapers can reject advertising for lesbian and gay groups without violating Wisconsin's state anti-discrimination laws, according to THE WISCONSIN LIGHT.

Brown County Judge Vivi Dilweg dismissed a lawsuit brought against the Green Bay PRESS-GAZETTE and its publisher, the Gannett Company. The suit was filed after the paper refused classified ads from the group Among Friends for medical, legal and professional services designed for lesbians and gay men, and from a couple selling sweatshirts imprinted with pro-gay slogans. Gannett also owns THE TENNESSEAN and THE JACKSON SUN in Tennessee.

The lawsuit claimed that the paper's classified advertising constituted a "public place of accommodation," similar to a hotel or restaurant and subject to the same restrictions against discrimination. Judge Dilweg ruled that this was not the case.

"A newspaper is a private enterprise," wrote the judge. "The concept of compelling publication of material the publishers choose not to publish is foreign to the application of the First Amendment in our law." •

## SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24

### GAY CABLE NETWORK / NASHVILLE GALA

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Buffet

Festivities begin at 8:30

Shows by

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Performances by

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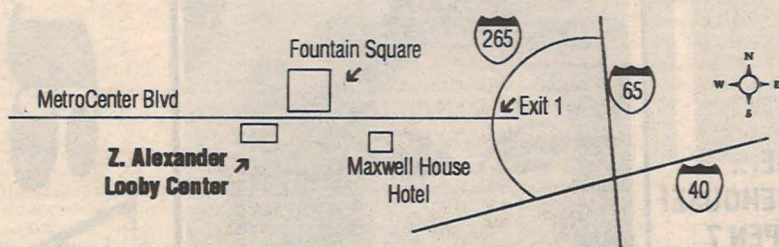


## starring

Michael Bouson	P.C. Denver	Rita Roxas
Thom Byrum	Martha Gabel	Patricia Taber
Rusel Brown	Cindy Graves	Sandra Terry
Shane Caldwell	Bill Hood	Lari White
Rona Carter	Phil Perry	Vickie Wonders-
Joe Correll	Susanna Rinear	Foltz
Margaret Dill	Barbara Jean Rogers	...and more!

Sunday, September 17, 7:30 p.m., at the Z. Alexander Looby Theatre, 2301 Metrocenter Boulevard in Nashville.  
Tickets \$10 at the door.

Join the cast after the show at the new Bristol Bar & Grille in Nashville's Church Street Centre.  
All proceeds from First Night benefit Nashville CARES.  
To find out more about First Night, phone (615) 327-Dare.



Special thanks to  
Bittner's Formal Wear, Bristol Bar & Grille, and Michael's Flowers & Gifts.

**Dare**

Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly

## ...Nkoli visits Memphis

• continued from page 1

gay rights or the anti-apartheid movement — the accompanying notoriety of his trip takes some getting used to.

"It's not easy. I never thought people would take me as a symbol, as a role model. I didn't want to be that," the slight young man says. "I knew a lot of people had heard of me. I could be walking down the street and people would say, 'Hi, Simon, how are you?' I'm embarrassed because I don't know them."

Looked on as a symbol by lesbian and gay activists around the world, as well as at home, Nkoli is often sought out for his views by all manner of people.

"I've found people don't come to see me as a social outing. They come to see me as business. We must have a gay community center with a telephone answering machine," he says.

Being homosexual in South Africa is really no different than in other countries, Nkoli maintains: "We are

two people — white and black — white people are most relaxed about homosexuality; in the black community, people don't talk about it at all. We find ourselves, because of tradition and culture, just not talking about it."

Only since 1978 have black South Africans been discussing homosexuality. Older generations have little understanding of the subject and younger people view it with much the same skepticism.

Like their counterparts in other countries, lesbian and gay men in South Africa often are the victims of harassment, both verbal and physical.

South African laws do not make homosexuality a crime, but under the Immorality Act, individuals may be prosecuted under sodomy laws. According to Nkoli, most of those charged under the sodomy laws are closeted married men who were caught by police while engaging in homosexual acts in parks or public toilets.

"Many people still believe in witchcraft and think that homosexuals are bewitched. Parents often will take their children to witch

doctors to be cured," Nkoli says. "My own mother felt very guilty, she felt she had been wrong in sending me to a private boys' school."

The 29-year-old Nkoli, raised on a small farm in Heibron in Orange Free State, was educated at the St. Bosco Boys' High School and attended secretarial college in Johannesburg.

In 1984, Nkoli was involved in a march to protest rent hikes in black townships surrounding Johannesburg. The march, planned as a peaceful protest, turned instead into a violent and bloody clash, with 39 people killed

and many more injured.

Some days later, while attending the funeral of a slain friend, Nkoli was arrested, ultimately spending four years in detention before he was acquitted. Throughout his detention, Nkoli was refused bail and was effectively prevented from working and from visiting his family.

During his detention, however, Nkoli was supported by anti-apartheid and lesbian/gay activists from all over the world. He is now

seeking to continue their support for the Gay and Lesbian Organization of Witwatersrand (GLOW), a non-racial organization, and the Township AIDS Project.

The Project has as its purpose the education of black South Africans about AIDS. Although the South African government under former President P.W. Botha and current President F.W. De Klerk refuses to address the question of AIDS, white South Africans are fending for themselves, educating their own about the dangers of the disease.

There are no AIDS information and prevention materials being provided to black South Africans.

White South Africans who want to help spread information among blacks unfortunately cannot speak the tribal languages. The Township AIDS Project, mistakenly referred to as the Zulu AIDS Project by members of the New York-based Men of All Colors Together (MACT) in publicity materials, hopes to provide such information, in those native languages, to black South Africans.

American interest in the project came after Nkoli contacted MACT and BWMT chapters, asking for their help with raising funds.

"The South African government has refused to acknowledge that AIDS is not a disease that affects only homosexuals, drug addicts or prostitutes," Nkoli says. "The government thinks AIDS is brought by those groups. Most people think the only ones who can get AIDS are members of those groups."

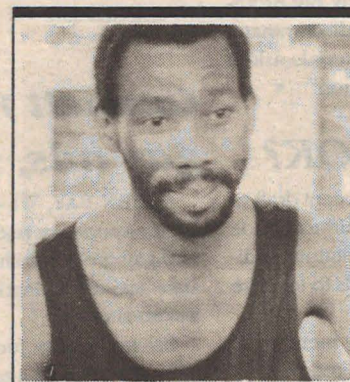
Blame for the misconception that AIDS is a disease which affects only white homosexuals, drug

addicts and prostitutes is the media's. "The media have published the names of lots of white people who've died of AIDS. But, according to the media, no black people have died of AIDS in South Africa," he reports.

Yet with the restrictive measures of the apartheid system and the perils of being openly gay in a homophobic atmosphere, Nkoli is determined to return to his homeland.

"I really believe things have to change. We can't sit down and say 'Please change.' We must work to make things change," Nkoli says. "And I wouldn't do very well in exile."

"I want to go back home." •



Simon Nkoli at the Memphis Public Library — DARE STAFF PHOTO



# First Night benefits Nashville CARES

from **STAFF REPORTS**

Entertainers for Sunday night's *Dare* First Night Theatre Awards are preparing for a program full of showstoppers, according to producer Jeff Ellis.

"It's amazing how many people have wanted to take part in the show. Everyone seems to be really excited about the Awards show," Ellis said.

The Awards ceremony, which honors outstanding performances and productions staged in Nashville since August 1, 1988, is set for the Z. Alexander Looby Theatre at 2301 Metrocenter Blvd., at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, September 17. Admission is \$10 at the door, with proceeds going to benefit Nashville CARES, an AIDS service organization. A post-Awards reception will be held at the Bristol Bar and Grille in Church Street Centre from 10 p.m.-midnight.

Shane Caldwell, co-star of *THE SYLVAN BROTHERS COMEDY HOUR*, will emcee the event which will open with a number by Rona Carter who earned critical praise for her recent performance in the Chaffin's Barn production of *NUNSENSE*.

The show will also feature performances

from Nashville Public Theatre's upcoming production of *QUILTERS*; Rave Revues' current show, *AVANTE GARAGE: I LOVE NASHVEGAS*; Suzanna Rainear from the Gallatin Arts Council's *THE BUSINESS OF MARRIAGE*; Thom Byrum, seen in *THE KING AND I* for Circle Players and

*MARCH OF THE FALSETOS* at Actors' Playhouse, and a finalist for best supporting actor in a musical; Martha Gabel, a finalist for two First Night awards for her performances in *PIPPIN* and *ALMOST A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*; performance artist

Rusel Brown in the premiere of a new piece, *FEVER-BLUE VIOLETS*; Lari White, finalist for best supporting actress in a musical, last seen starring in *A ROCK WEDDING*; and Cindy Graves, last seen in Chaffin's Barn's *NUNSENSE*.

In addition to the ten categories (lead and supporting actors and actresses in both musicals and plays; best play and best musical), two special awards will be presented.

Presenters include John Bridges and Mary Donnet of the Nashville steering committee of Heart Strings: The National Tour; Dorothy Harrison of Murfreesboro Little Theatre; David Phillips of Nashville Ballet; and *Dare*'s own Stuart Bivin and Sherre Dryden. •



## ...educating lesbian and gay youth

• continued from page 1

study, which polled some 108 self-identified lesbian and gay youths (average age 16), researchers found that 59 fit the suicide potential profile and that 22 had actually attempted suicide.

Further, the report shows that the age of awareness among self-identified lesbians and gays — that is, the realization they are "different" — was 8.1 among "suicidal" youths and 11 among "non-suicidal." The study also showed that the first sexual experience occurred at 13 among "suicidal" youths and 15 among "non-suicidal."

The consensus among educators taking part in the discussion was that to effectively educate adolescents about AIDS, it is first important to teach them about homosexuality, free from the confines of stereotypical, and often homophobic, values.

"It seems that most programs for gay youth are coming out of gay and lesbian community centers in larger cities across the country," Nelson said, adding that Tennessee hopes to soon have in place a program directed at high-risk youth groups: lesbians and gays, homeless youths, street youths and intravenous drug users.

Reginald Simon, coordinator of the Family Life/AIDS curricula for the Chicago public school system, said efforts there have included putting AIDS information in library books that

include information about homosexuality, bisexuality or any sexual orientation.

Rachel Weiner, of the South Texas Outreach for AIDS Education, said one method employed by her group was the education of "Mexican-American women heads of households."

"We've found that if we direct education to them, we get to the children in the household and possibly to the sexual partners of the women," Weiner said.

Educating parents about AIDS is not the only concern of educators, said Zulma Martinez from Wilmington, Delaware, but educating them about homosexuality is just as important.

"Parents often want to modify their child's sexual orientation instead of dealing with it," she explained. "Gay men and women tend to have more respect for children, which destroys the misconception that all gays are guilty of sexually abusing children."

Elizabeth Ward, AIDS education coordinator for the Tennessee Education Association (TEA), said that in her dealings with teachers across the state she always points out to them that they may indeed have lesbian or gay students in their classes "and that what they say or do could have an impact on how those students feel about themselves."

"They always look at me in amazement," Ward said. "As if they'd never realized it." •



**Matt Nelson** addresses participants at the International Society of AIDS Educators' 3rd International Conference, held in Nashville earlier this week. — DARE STAFF PHOTO

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# CENTER Big Brothers is w



Buddies of Nashville's brochure doesn't mention the agency

by LAURA TEK  
Staff Writer

**I**n July, 1988, Jeffrey Gould, an experienced health educator in Washington D.C. — and a homosexual — wanted to volunteer with the Big Brothers of the National Capital Area, an agency devoted to matching adult volunteers with boys in need of role models.

Among the many questions included on the application materials was one inquiring about his sexual orientation.

Gould called the agency's acting executive director, who assured him that Big Brothers did not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, which would have been illegal under the District of Columbia's anti-discrimination Human Rights Law.

Gould, in an effort to show it was important for "role models" not to lie, complete the application honestly, indicating that he was, indeed, a homosexual.

Two months later, he received a rejection letter from the agency.



When he phoned the agency, Gould was told that the Big Brothers did not accept gay men as volunteers.

Gould, who considered himself a qualified candidate, saw the action as another example of discrimination based on sexual orientation. He filed a complaint with the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights (OHR).

In a significant preliminary round victory announced by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the OHR has ruled that Big Brothers is not exempt from the District's Human Rights Act which bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

OHR rejected Big Brothers' claim that, as a non-profit volunteer organization, it was not bound by the law and could freely discriminate.

Gould and his attorneys, Jane Dolkart and Evan Wolfson, were elated.

Both attorneys note that the OHR's ruling, which says that Big Brothers is bound by the Human Rights Law, assures that the agency's anti-gay discriminatory policy will not be examined in full.

"This decision has implications far beyond this case. It represents a victory not only for gay men and lesbians who seek to be role models to underprivileged youth, but to all individuals who are told that because of their race, gender or religion, they cannot participate in various organizations serving the com-

munity. Everyone should be protected against unfair discrimination, and everyone should be barred from discriminating," Wolfson said.

Tennessean Gregory Fisher, however, remembers the time in 1985 that he applied to become a volunteer with Buddies of Nashville, an affiliate of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America.

Buddies is an organization that matches qualified men and women volunteers in a one-to-one relationship with boys and girls aged 5 to 12, most of whom are growing up with only one parent.

Their brochure states, "We have lots of children of all ages, races and backgrounds waiting for a Big Buddy. One of them is right for you."

**B**ut does Buddies of Nashville think gay men and lesbians are right for them?

Fisher says no. "I had heard that Buddies had, at that time, over 250 boys who were looking for a big brother but couldn't be assigned because they didn't have enough volunteers," Fisher said. "I thought that it would be something that I would be interested in doing. At that time I was a member of an ex-gay support group, I was trying to be straight."

After going through an initial interview with no problems, Fisher successfully completed an orientation session and was then interviewed by a Buddies staff counselor.

"She asked, 'and what about your sexuality?' And I said, 'What about my sexuality?' And she said, 'Are you heterosexual or homosexual?'" Fisher remembers. "Before I answered, she said, 'You understand the reason we ask that question,

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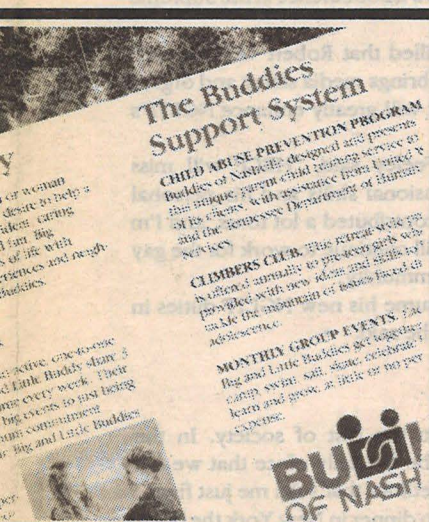
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# R P I E C E

## watching you



the agency's anti-lesbian and anti-gay policies.

because many parents do not want their child to have a big brother who is homosexual."

Fisher told the counselor he was heterosexual, but troubled by his lack of candor, he phoned the counselor, asking for a second meeting during which he told her of his involvement in the ex-gay support group.

About a month later, Fisher received a letter telling him he had been rejected as a volunteer, based upon the information he supplied during the second interview.

"I contacted them and said that I felt that was real unfair. I said that I had been honest and that I was no longer, in fact, pursuing a homosexual lifestyle," he said. "Their only comment was that if I wanted to become a part of the program, then I could volunteer to do other things such as writing, graphic design stuff, or maybe take over their newsletter."

"I was real offended by that. I pointed out that I knew for a fact that they had over 250 boys who were looking for a big brother and could not be assigned because there weren't enough big brothers."

Fisher also pointed out that the application asked potential volunteers if they would be interested in "taking a child who was homosexual."

"I asked them, 'Don't you think that's rather odd, that you know for sure that some of your clients are homosexuals, but you would not want a homosexual as a volunteer?'" Fisher said.

"I also said that if I qualified in every other respect, that they should then give me the option of being rejected by the parent. They should give the parents the right to either say yes or no, rather than the organization. But they wouldn't go for any

of it. To them, it was a case dismissed."

**W**hat's the 1989 policy regarding gay men and lesbians?

Buddies of Nashville won't say. What is known is that the screening process is much tougher than it was in 1985 when Fisher applied. To get an application folder, interested individuals must first attend an orientation meeting.

Applicants are required to have four recommendations in order to be considered. And a police check is done on each applicant.

Once the application is completed, it is then reviewed by a committee which either accepts or rejects the applicant based solely on the application. If accepted, volunteers are required to go through personal interviews with one or more caseworkers. After that, a caseworker visits the volunteer's home.

Does Buddies of Nashville have a policy regarding homosexuals? Their response was no response.

"I don't know," and "I couldn't say," were the answers to repeated questions. "Only a caseworker could answer that."

However, after three phone calls, on three different days, all in the late afternoon, and after being told for the third time that the caseworkers were out to lunch, I gave up.

"I wasn't sure about the origin of the sexuality question, if it was an actual question printed on the counselor's form, if it was a question she just asked of everyone, or if she just asked me specifically because she picked up something that made her think I might be gay," Fisher said. "I understand their need to be careful. And I understand that pedophilia is a problem, but it's unfortunate that they assume all gay people are pedophiles."

Gould, meanwhile, remains optimistic about the outcome of his case:

"I am glad that I will now have a chance to challenge the policy which keeps me from using my experience and interest to help a child in need," he said. "I want to be a Big Brother, and don't want to begin by teaching my little brother that it's okay to lie, okay to discriminate, and okay to set yourself up as above the law."

Editor's note: Please see related story on page 3.



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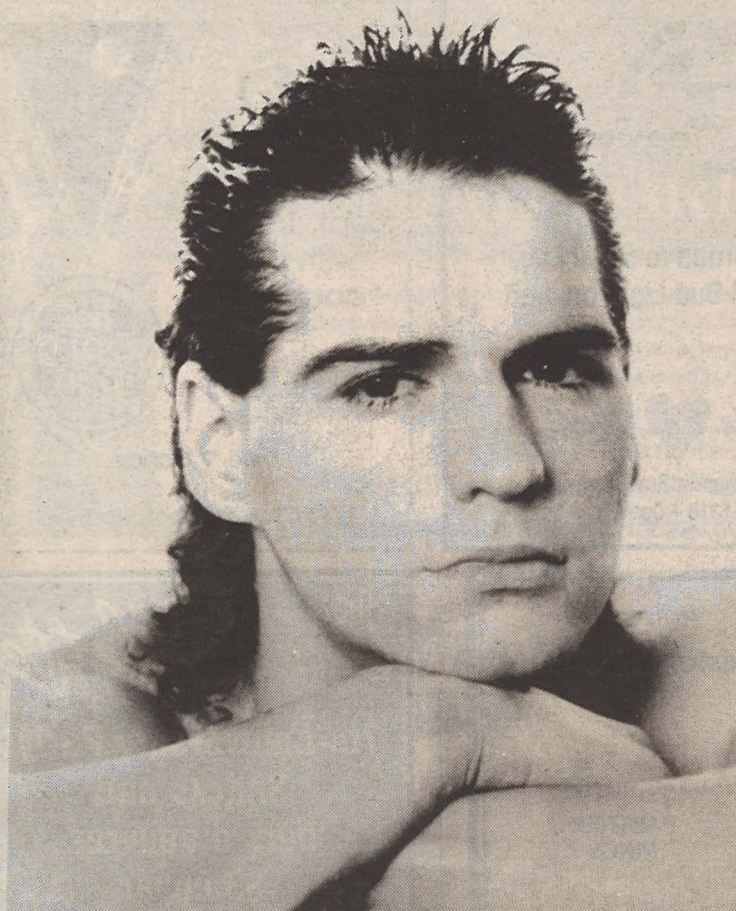
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## HRCF's Bray moves to NGLTF

by JEFF ELLIS  
 Editor

Robert Bray has been named public information director at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

Bray succeeds Urvashi Vaid, recently named as executive director of NGLTF.

Bray previously was communications director at the Human Rights Campaign fund (HRCF), where he helped increase public awareness of that organization's political programs and activities.

"It's sad to leave HRCF; it's a terrific organization of political insiders," Bray told *Dare* in a telephone interview Tuesday. "Tim McFeeley [new HRCF executive director] is tops. It's rare when an individual can leave a job he loves for another job he loves."

Bray said he considers the move to NGLTF a "lateral" one that he is "excited about."

"I'm really interested in the work NGLTF is

doing with the Privacy Project, the hate crimes project and the military project," Bray said. "This is the beginning of the gay '90s and the 20th anniversary of Stonewall, an exciting time in the lesbian and gay civil rights movement."

Bray co-directed, with Vaid, lesbian and gay press efforts at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions and the 1987 March on Washington civil disobedience at the Supreme Court.

"We are thrilled that Robert will join us," Vaid said. "He brings media savvy and organizing skills that will greatly enhance NGLTF's work."

HRCF's McFeeley said, "HRCF will miss Robert's professional skills and his personal warmth. He's contributed a lot to us, and I'm very glad he will continue to work for the gay and lesbian community."

Bray will assume his new NGLTF duties in early October, he said. •

## ...homophobic? me?

• continued from page 10

And he's right. I'm more tolerant of people and things that seem "mainstream" or straight than I am of things that make us stand out. Things that make people say, "Oh, he's gay, can't you tell?"

It's time to stop giving in to that kind of internalized homophobia. I can't just want to be tolerated because people don't notice I exist. Being gay means something very particular. I am different. I have a different heritage, one that heterosexual society has tried its hardest to wipe out and erase. I suffer from oppression and discrimination that even if stopped today would still be a bitter memory for me. It has formed my personhood and my vision of life.

I live in a different society that handles emotions, feelings, sensuality and sexuality

differently from the rest of society. In the bedroom may be the only place that we are alike. And sometimes that suits me just fine.

On the way to dinner in New York the other night, I stopped by the Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop. A beautiful man there was wearing an earring with a fish on it. This was a fish. A large rainbow trout. He could never be mistaken for a heterosexual, and I guess that was his wish.

I followed him down the street to Sheridan Square, hypnotized by his earring, drawn in by its sensuality. At Sheridan Square, I met my friend Howard, who was a little shocked at my obvious desires. Later that night I told David of this attraction, and he smiled at my developing sense of sensuality and, I guess, my developing sense of self. A dress on gay pride day? No. Not yet. But at least an earring. •

## ...doesn't everybody?

• continued from page 11

They are given able support by Hood (as Cleft), Correll (as Luke, the pizza waiter), Perry (as Luke's father) and White (as Lulu Luke, Luke's harmonica-playing sister.)

White and Gabel start the evening off in proper style with "Chatting with Leslie Anne," our favorite "thespi- anne," who now has her own talk show. White follows that with "Bernice," a funnily touching sketch about a cleaning woman at the Country Music Wax Museum.

Perry gets a funny turn as Salvatore Albergetti, the accordion-playing star of the Ramada Inn-Opryland's lounge and Hood pokes fun at theatre critics with his "Theatre Talk." "Welcome to Nashville" features Bouson and Correll in an all-too-familiar episode about applying for a Metro sticker.

"Remember the Alamo," which features a fashion show from Tony Alamo's Broadway emporium that's interrupted by the ravings of Jim and Tammy Bakker borders on the insane, but it's definitely right on target. Hood's at his best as Tony, with White as an Alamo automaton in rhinestones. Gabel and Correll shine as the Bakkers.

Gabel, White and Perry give us an incisive look at Vanderbilt students; Bouson and guest star Kathy Shepard play country music artists Tommy and Tammy Travis; and the whole cast delivers an Opryland-style musical revue in "I Hear the Seventies Singing" (which features some scathing Cher impressions from both the

women and the men.)

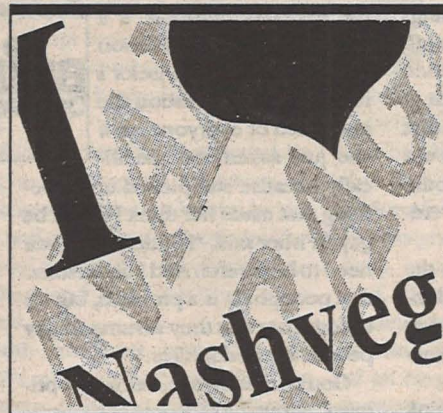
But comedy improvisation is the heart of the AVANTE GARAGE and in this new edition of the long-running show, the cast succeeds in six inventive sketches that are imaginative and entertaining. Frankly, these folks are amazing!

In short order, the six performers lose any inhibitions they may have had and lay

waste to a variety of situations, performed in a wide range of acting styles, exhibiting every emotion from fear to loathing.

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## PAGES

## Not the Village People

*Macho Sluts.* By Pat Califia. Boston: Alyson Publications. 230 pages, paper. \$8.95.  
reviewed by **FRANK ASHE**

*Special to Dare*

I'VE LONG BEEN A FAN of Pat Califia's advice column and occasional essays in THE ADVOCATE.

I remember fondly her remark, in reviewing Larry Townsend's LEATHERMEN'S HANDBOOK, that his neglect of leatherwomen's concerns "makes a girl want to sit on his face." No reader of MACHO SLUTS can doubt that she would.

Of the ten pieces that make up the book, I like the Introduction best, which reminds me of the quip that the Talmud is of great use for the light it sheds on the commentaries. Nevertheless, the Introduction is perhaps the most raw and direct part of a book that is not designed on any page to tranquilize.

"Macho Sluts," as the author writes, "is a visible act of love, written for any reader who is not a traitor to her own cunt. (It has something to do with hatred too, but not what you assume.) It was meant to generate some of the hope that leather dykes need as much as they need raw courage to survive...[it] is also a recruiting poster, as flashy and fast and seductively intimidating as I could make it."

She lays it on the line like this for 16 brazenly out, honest and politically incorrect pages. They're worth the price of the book alone.

Not that the short stories don't make their contributions, of course. I'm quite well aware (as Califia is too) of the wide gulf between fiction and fact, but for that very reason I would love to believe that someone, somewhere has actually had a scene as exquisite as this one, from "The Finishing School":

"Mamma came home early from the theatre

one evening and caught Berenice in the act of whipping me with a handful of long-stemmed roses. This could have been passed off as bizarre but well-intentioned corporal punishment...but she had stuffed a peeled persimmon up me before beginning the flagellation, and I was so frightened when I saw Mamma that it tumbled out, rolled across the floor, and came to rest at her feet."

The sweetly pastoral style of this little family story contrasts strongly with the hard-edged and hard-assed "The Calyx of Isis"; most of the stories, including a couple significantly involving men, fall somewhere in between.

Indeed, it would be hard to maintain the intensity of "Calyx" at book length. The Calyx of Isis is a woman's bathhouse and most the story is a long, loving narrative of a wildly uninhibited, all-woman S/M orgy that takes place in its basement.

One character makes her entrance in a charming outfit that I personally think every queen of either gender should own — a white latex nurse's uniform.

Alas, it is a fitting ensemble for the close of the book, the transition once again between high fantasy and prosaic reality.

THE LAST PIECE IS A NONFICTION guide to safe sex for women, and a valuable, matter-of-fact treatment it is. Still, the discordancy is noticeable, and one cannot help but more the necessity of ending this string of silver bubbles with a lead weight.

I wonder if you could catch anything from a persimmon? •

## The unknown vicar

*To Boys Unknown.* By E.E. Bradford. London: Gay Men's Press. 1988. 77 pages, paper. \$7.95.  
reviewed by **GEORGE GRAHAM**

*Special to Dare*

TO BOYS UNKNOWN, a collection of poems by E.E. Bradford, was written before the word "gay" meant anything more than jolly.

Bradford's poems, however, supersede the traditional meaning of "gay." In fact, they exemplify the contemporary meaning quite nicely.

Bradford's verse is rollicking and giddy. It has the galloping meter of poetry recited by schoolchildren, but the subject of this verse is quite another matter.

Bradford self-admittedly comes from the boy-love tradition. TO BOYS UNKNOWN reads like a book of homoerotic nursery rhymes.

Surprisingly, Bradford gained quite a following and enjoyed favorable reviews. It seems that some of his audience misconstrued his subject matter to be as innocent as his meter. While some of the poems might support the common interpretation of his theme as the

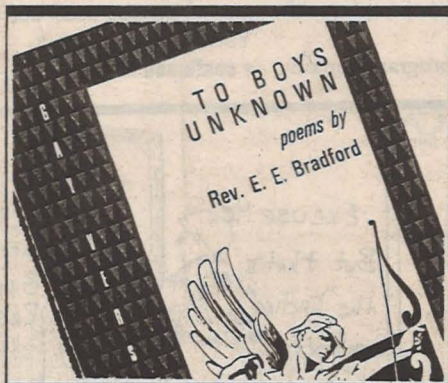
platonic love between boy and man, a few of his steamier descriptions prove the ignorance of his audience, in such poems as "Fomes Pectati": "Close by his side a lusty lad lay prone, / With brawny back, broad loins and swelling thighs."

In this day, his thinly clad connotations become as naked as the boys he describes.

Perhaps the most amazing feat of E.E. Bradford is that he was also known as the Rev. E.E. Bradford. While writing his homoerotic verse, he served as an Anglican vicar, an impossible combination of vocations in the present. During the

decades in which he wrote, no one so much as raised an eye.

Had they known that such an innocent-looking man was using innocent meter to write not-so-innocent verse, they would not have been amused. But it is the "naughtiness" of TO BOYS UNKNOWN which makes it a jolly good hour of gay poetry. •



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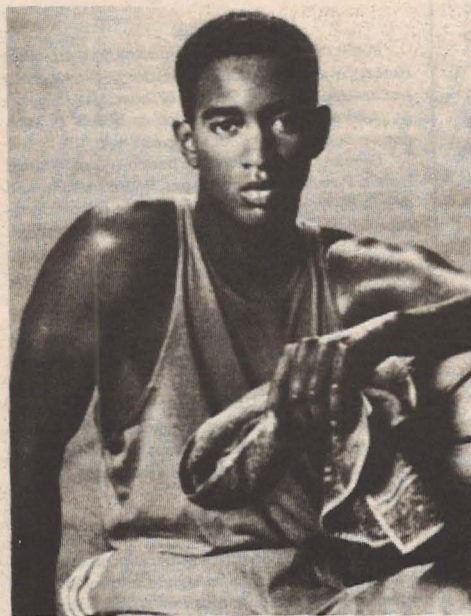
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*A farewell*Dear *Dare*,

Nashville, in 1983, was a very different place than it is today, especially for our community. I remember how strange it felt when I arrived here and yet it felt like a good place to be. Having moved here from Asheville, N.C., (and two years before, from Atlanta) Nashville was like a compromise between those two extremes, not too big, not too small.

The lesbian and gay community at that time consisted primarily of the bars and three religious groups (MCC, Affirmation and Second Sunday). The Coalition (now T-GALA) was inactive, though still in existence. There were many times when I felt like I was the only "out" person in the city. I'm sure there were others who would have been willing, but I didn't know them and our community was not very informed or cohesive in those days.

Two months after I arrived, Teddy Bart had me on his Sunday night television show. It would be my first TV appearance ever. I didn't have sense enough to be scared until it was all over. The show had a call-in format and, of course, I got lots of "Bible thumpers." There were so many calls that they extended the show an extra half hour and still the switchboard was jammed.

The next weekend I was out at one of the clubs and people kept coming up to thank me for speaking out. The community seemed so appreciative and that made me feel good. I knew I was home.

In those days, AIDS was just beginning to cut through the denial of our defenses here. Tommy Powell came to my office one day terribly distraught and said to me, "We've got to do something." I agreed.

If we could start then, Nashville had a chance to be spared some of what was happening in other places. A group of us from MCC and interested people from the community began meeting at Lifestyles Health Clinic to develop some kind of strategy to face this disease. Nashville CARES was grown out of the lesbian/gay community because at the time no one else seemed interested in confronting issues around AIDS. I am so proud of the growth CARES has sustained as a social service agency. I hope it never forgets its roots.

There have been so many memories through the years. The 50-hour AIDS Prayer Vigil in 1985 was the first truly ecumenical gathering of area churches around the issue of AIDS; the Pride Week activities and later the parades; the protests; the celebrations; the March on Washington; the re-emergence of a political force in T-GALA and as a result a proliferation of all sorts of other groups.

We've come a long way. I thank God that I have been blessed to be a part of your lives and that all of you in your collective pride, love, anger, fear, strength and compassion have been a part of my life. Together we have made an impact on this city. We need never hang our heads in shame again. We need never feel we have to settle for the crumbs that are thrown to us. We are a proud "angry, gentle people."

I love you, my friends. Keep the fires of your hearts burning because our passion and love for each other will be what sustains us as we face the challenges of the future. Nashville will always have a special place in my heart.

PAUL TUCKER  
Nashville

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"I am the Love that dare not speak its name."  
— Lord Alfred Douglas, "The Two Loves," 1892

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## LETTERS

We welcome your letters. Submissions over 500 words will be considered for publication in the *Soapbox* space. Letters must be signed and include the writer's address and phone for verification. Names will be withheld on request. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. No defamatory material will be published.

All letters become the sole property of Pyramid Light & Power and will be assumed intended for publication unless otherwise explicitly stated.

## ARCHIVES

*Dare* is available on microfilm at the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

## SOAPBOX

*I'm a homophobe?*

by JIM ROCHE

Contributing Writer

I'VE BEEN VERY SMUG LATELY. Going around talking at colleges and to civic groups about being gay. Being an "official" homosexual.

One of the favorite stories I tell to these groups is about coming out to my daughter. One day, when I was trying on a new ministerial robe that was rather colorful in nature, she commented that she hoped I wasn't starting to wear dresses now. She said, "Look papa, everything's all right, but you're not gonna start wearing dresses too?"

After I tell that story, I usually go on to talk about how easy it is for some people to accept lesbians and gay men because, for the most part, we are just like them. We even have funny little family stories. My point was that we are all the same, except, of course, in bed. And over and over I've tried to make that point. We are the same as you. Almost the same. Nearly the same. Just a little different.

There's no test that says you are gay or you are lesbian. We are nearly invisible, and therefore discrimination against us is wrong.

Well, the other night my lover David corrected me again (he's just too politically correct for comfort sometimes.) He said that if he heard that story again he'd puke. He went on to let me know exactly how homophobic it is, and you know what? He's right.

My liberal friends (and we all have so many of those, I'm afraid) have all used the line "we're all just alike, except in bed" when defending me, my person or my job. Whenever there is a discussion in which the subject of my gayness comes up, they say, "he's just the same as everyone else." That's supposed to make me feel good. Feel I am part of the "liberal" family.

But just maybe it's also a hint, "Hey Jim, you had better be as much like everyone else as you can be."

It's amazing that what at first sounds like a welcoming, accepting statement can become, if it wasn't already, a statement of the terms with which you will be welcomed and accepted. It really says that these are the limits to acceptance. You need to be, in some way, like us. We are willing to accept "variations on a theme," but let's watch out for something exceptional, unconventional or just plain different.

A recent visit to an AIDS program demon-

strated this clearly to me. It wasn't so different from a visit to the United Way. You would never have guessed that this was an organization trying to deal with a crisis that has affected up to 50% of the gay population, or has received any undue support from the gay community. It was just so straight. Of course they said to me, "we don't have to be gay to be concerned with AIDS." While this situation might not have been a closet, it certainly looked like a straight jacket to me.

Writing in CHRISTOPHER STREET, Michael Denny has asked, "If we're so much alike, why all the fuss anyway?" What my liberal friends and I have been saying is that there should be no concern about my gayness because I'm so much like everyone else, except what I do privately. Shit, I'm almost a heterosexual anyway! So why not tolerate me?

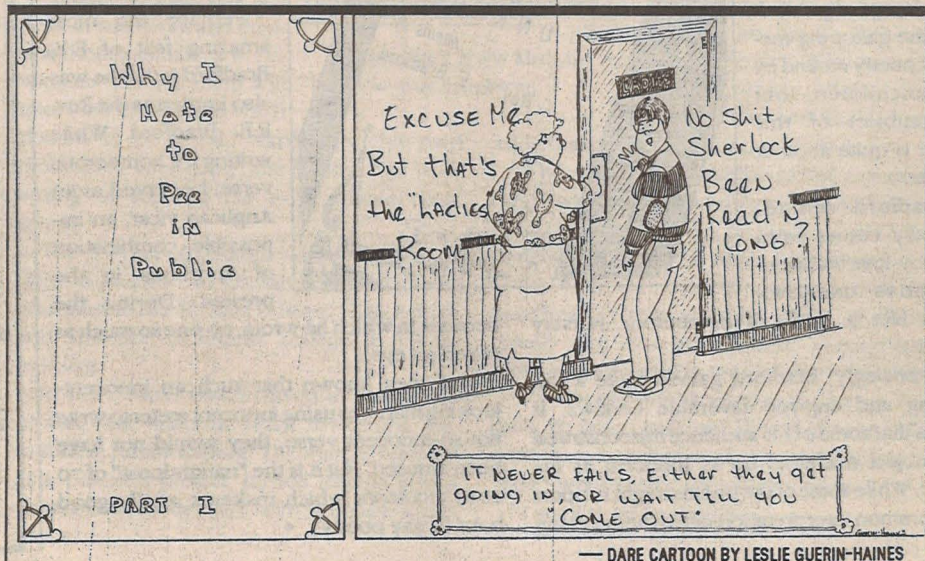
Relegating gayness to privacy (not wearing dresses) means that the very toleration that I ask for and is offered to me by my liberal friends in another way of supporting my own inner homophobia. Something that I, like many gay men, can demonstrate to you quite easily without anyone's help, thank you. It's also a way of letting societal homophobia pressure me into behaving "appropriately," even if it isn't how I want to behave, look or act. And then I suppose I should thank them for doing it to me.

Denny describes his impression of liberal tolerance like this: "The way liberals have of not noticing one is gay or, if noticed, of not wanting to hear it or, if forced to hear about it, of asserting that 'that's your private life and of not concern of mine or anyone else.'"

IT ALL BOILS DOWN to all of us acting as straight as we can and requesting that the government and everyone else just keep out of our bedrooms. Don't worry, we say to our straight friends, we're just like you when we come out of the closet. That's why the number one comment I hear when talking to college groups is, "I don't mind your being gay, it's just when you go around and flaunt it." It is expected that when we come out we are just like everybody else.

Well, David said to me, "Surprise, Jim, you're as bad as everybody else. You're tolerant of private acts, but not public display. You're homophobic."

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— DARE CARTOON BY LESLIE GUERIN-HAINES



## C U R T A I N S

## On their best MISBEHAVIOR

*Ain't Misbehavin'.* By Murray Horwitz and Richard Maltby Jr.  
Directed by Eric Riley. Tennessee Repertory Theatre. Through September 23.  
Reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**  
Editor

Tennessee Repertory Theatre's season-opening *AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'* is a joyous romp, a tuneful tribute to the musical genius of Fats Waller which features five homegrown Nashville talents.

Director Eric Riley's cast — Kim Fleming, Ron Hutchins, Barry Scott, J. Karen Thomas and Sandra Wright — performs with style and vigor, giving some old songs a new twist and, in the process, entertaining Nashville theatre audiences in true style.

Set against a stylish Art Deco set designed by Opryland's Rick Stetson, *AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'* may be the most satisfying musical TRT has staged. And it may be one of the few shows that really deserve the standing ovation the audience rewards the cast with at show's end.

When *AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'* first opened on Broadway, it claimed three Tony Awards and made Nell Carter a star even before her dreadful network sitcom. Given new life at TPAC's Polk Theatre, it's easy to see why the show is such a favorite: it contains some of the most often heard songs in show business.

But while the songs are the kind you like to sing, having them performed by such a talented quintet just provides the icing on the cake. These five performers bowl you over from start — "Ain't Misbehavin'" — to finish — "Honeysuckle Rose."

Accompanied by William Foster McDaniel, a wizard on the keyboard, and an onstage jazz ensemble, this joint really jumps!

TRT mainstay Barry Scott, one of Nashville's most versatile performers, is finally given his due with this show. Scott's superb timing and expert singing voice have never been better than in this show's "Honeysuckle Rose" and "Your Feet Too Big."

While Scott takes top acting honors in this

production, he shares top billing for singing honors with a trio of somewhat undiscovered talents.

Sandra Wright, in the role that made Nell Carter a star, flirts and flaunts. She's a natural on stage, a commanding presence with a voice as big as all get out. Her "I've Got a Feeling I'm Falling" is lush and romantic, her "Cash for Your Trash" brassy and sassy, and "Mean to Me" defines the term "showstopper."

"Squeeze Me" is the first number on the program to give Kim Fleming a chance to shine — and she seizes the opportunity. She proves herself to be an effective comic (with a takeoff on Kate Smith) in "When the Nylons Bloom Again."

Known primarily as a dancer, Ron Hutchins displays the depth of his talents with his singing/dancing/mugging. His "Viper Drag" is a unique blend of the three, tinged with dramatic realism.

Former "radio personality" on Memphis' FM 100 and Nashville's nasty Y-107, J. Karen Thomas completes the ensemble in stylish form, displaying an ability to mug her way through any song.

Unfortunately, she's not the vocal match of the other four members of the ensemble and tends to be overshadowed.

WHILE THE INDIVIDUAL NUMBERS are topnotch, the true wonder of the show appears the group numbers. "This Joint is Jumpin'" is a tremendous first act finale, infusing the audience with a level of energy that makes intermission a real party.

And, in a number that's just as effective in its own unique way, is "Black and Blue," a startling, moving social commentary set to music. At song's end, the audience sits transfixed, awed by the superb performance of the anthem. •

## Doesn't everyone?

*I Love Nashvegas.* Conceived and directed by Michael Bouson and Joe Correll.  
Rave Revues. Backstage at the Barn. Through September 30.  
reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**  
Editor

YOU'LL JUST LOVE *I LOVE NASHVEGAS*, another fun frolic from the folks who, since 1985, have been bringing the lunacy of *AVANTE GARAGE* to appreciative Nashville audiences.

In this production — billed as "return to the son of *AVANTE GARAGE*, you know, the sequel" — the raucous sextet skewers all of Music City's sacred cows, from Belle Meade socialites to Bellevue's pizza purveyors. It's an outrageously funny two hours of pure entertainment, a knee-slapping, breathtaking festival of non-stop laughter.

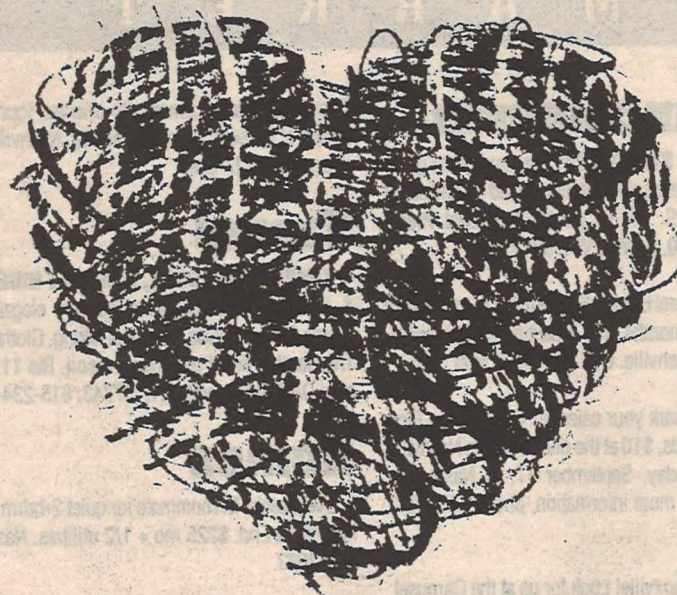
Conceived and directed by Michael Bouson and Joe Correll, the cast features some of Nashville's funniest, and most daring, actors: Martha Gabel, Bill Hood, Phil Perry and Lari White, in addition to master thespians Bouson and Correll.

Once again, the show's highlight is the continuing drama of those who live in Chickering Heights, the story of Tish Flügelhorn, wife of Kenneth Flügelhorn, maestro of the Hong Kong Philharmonic, and her travails.

When last we looked in on the Flügelhorns and the Chins (Tish's sister Martha and her husband Leslie, the founders of Chinwood), there was much ado about Hilary Chin dating a waiter at the Bellevue Pizza Hut.

Now, Hilary and the waiter are married; Martha has disappeared; Hilary has been committed; Leslie's mum on the issue; brother Cleft is working on his tan; and Martha's worried Catherine Damell's gonna find out. Egads! It's great good fun, with Gabel (as Tish) and Bouson (as Leslie) nothing short of hilarious.

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## Heart Strings: A Musical Evening Of Hope For The Healing Of AIDS

Heart Strings: The National Tour is coming to Nashville for one night only, Thursday, September 28, at 7:30 p.m., at the Polk Theatre in the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. Special Guest Stars Minnie Pearl, Janis Ian, Rosanne Cash, Tom T. Hall, the Rev. Ed Sanders, Mac Pirkle and more will join the musical revue which benefits Nashville CARES, Minority AIDS Outreach, and the Vanderbilt AIDS Project. Regular tickets: \$25 through TICKETMASTER. Ticket plus pre-show buffet and post-show champagne cast party: \$100. Ticket plus cast party: \$50. Call (615) 385-0140 for special tickets and information.

Call TICKETMASTER at (615) 741-2787 for your tickets today.

Heart Strings: The National Tour is a project of DIFFA, Design Industries Foundation for AIDS.

This weekend, Sept. 15, 16 & 17  
Video-enhanced dancing with DJ Steve!

Coming  
Sunday,  
September 24

The  
DENA  
KAYE  
Show

Sunday Night Dinner Special, September 17  
Spaghetti with meat sauce,  
tossed salad and bread, \$3.95.



The  
GRUB

WEDNESDAY 50¢ Draft Night  
EVERY DAY 2-for-1 Happy Hour 5 pm - 8 pm  
2535 Franklin Rd, Nashville (615) 297-4571



## M A R K E T

## Announcements

• **RELATIONSHIP STRUGGLES?** New audiotape gives support and steps to resolve conflict. Based on bestseller **LESBIAN COUPLES**. \$11.95 postpaid to Seal Press, 3131 Western, #410, Seattle, WA 98121.

• **FOR SALE:** General Electric Spacemaker III microwave oven, used only 2 months. \$95. Beautiful walnut executive desk. \$210. Nashville. 615 859-9302 after 5pm.

• Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Dare First Night Theater Awards, \$10 at the door benefits Nashville CARES, 7pm, Sunday, September 17, at Nashville's Looby Theater. For more information, phone 615 327-Dare.

• Dare is now in Knoxville! Look for us at the Carousel, the Peppertree, Traditions, Metropolitan Community Church/Knoxville and Davis-Kidd Booksellers. Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly.

• **WANTED:** Reliable, hardworking self-starters in Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis for commissioned ad sales. Great part-time, high-pay work for students, etc. 615 327-Dare.

• **WANTED:** Reliable and energetic people to help deliver Dare in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville. Write Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone 615 327-Dare.

• **LONG HOURS. HARD WORK. LOW PAY.** Dare is accepting applications from writers in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville, the Tri-cities and around

Tennessee. Learn community-oriented journalism, and be one of the best. Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone 615 327-Dare.

## Travel

• **TIMBERFELL LODGE, DISCREET HIDEAWAY.** Bed & breakfast inn. 250 acres country elegance, deluxe rooms & food, sauna, jacuzzi & hiking. Clothes optional. The South's finest gay men's resort. Rte 11, Box 94-A, attn: DAR, Greeneville, TN 37743. 615-234-0833.

## Homes

• GWM seeks M roommate for quiet 2-bdrm townhouse near West End. \$225 mo + 1/2 utilities. Nashville. 615 383-2883.

• GWM seeks roommate to share 3 bdrm house, Nashville. No smokers. \$225/mo + 1/2 utilities. 615 367-1623.

## Personal

• Happy Birthday, Tek! 1 more year closer to GAY-ATTY.

• Mr. B., you'd better watch throwing that word "perfect" around. We prefer "nearly-perfect."

• Happy anniversary, happy anniversary! Happy anniversary, haaaaaaaappy anniversary! Love from your MUCH younger man.

• C, you're so Megasmart and I'm so Kroger-dumb. What can I say? I still love you. Spitter.

## Classified ads and subscriptions

Name .....  
Address .....  
Phone (Day) ..... (Evening) .....  
I certify that I am the person named above. No ad will be accepted without signature.  
Signed .....

## OFFICE USE ONLY

I..... D.....  
V..... R.....  
A..... M.....

Run ad for ☐ 2 weeks ☐ 4 weeks ☐ ..... weeks

Ad cost per 2-week period \$.....

☐ + response drawer charge \$ 5.00

☐ + BOLD CAPS charge \$ 5.00

= SUBTOTAL \$.....

x number of two-week periods .....

= CLASSIFIED AD TOTAL \$.....

+ ☐ 6 months \$16 ☐ 1 year \$32 subscription \$.....

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$.....

• All ad prices are for two consecutive weeks: \$10 for up to 100 characters, \$20 for up to 200 characters and so on.

• Please print one character per box. A character is any letter, numeral, space or punctuation mark.

• We reserve the right to edit ads, and to reject any ad. Sexually explicit or exploitative ads will not be accepted. No ad will be accepted without signature and advance payment in full. We assume no responsibility for advertisers' claims.

• Response drawers are available. Responses will be mailed two weeks after the last appearance of the ad. To answer a drawer ad, write to:

Dare Drawer # .....  
Box 40422  
Nashville, TN 37204-0422

• Ads received by noon Tuesday will run the following Friday. Please enclose check or money order for total amount, payable to:

Dare  
Box 40422  
Nashville, TN 37204-0422.

• Questions? Phone (615) 327-DARE.

\$10

\$20

## Q U O T E S

## Mel thinks MAKING LOVE was sickening!

"It's Liberace. My grandparents took me to see Liberace for my seventh birthday...I remember he was playing Chopin's Minute Waltz...and I turned to my grandmother and said, 'Hey, he hit an A instead of an A-flat,' and she said, 'Oh, shut up and watch the show.'"  
— Pop music's most famous 18-year-old, Debbie Gibson, to a PEOPLE magazine question about her "dream date." Obviously, she didn't realize all those rhinestones were more than just a part of the act.

"I hope I don't get married while I'm here. I have Mr. Right waiting for me at home in South Africa."

— Openly-gay anti-apartheid activist Simon Nkoli during his recent visit to Memphis.

"Donna Hanover, an anchorwoman for WPIX-TV and husband of Rudolph W. Giuliani, a Republican mayoral candidate, gave birth at 9:26 a.m. yesterday to a 9-pound, 7-ounce girl, Caroline Delores, in Lenox Hill Hospital. Mr. Giuliani introduced Caroline to her brother, Andrew, right."

— Cutline for a NEW YORK TIMES photo in which candidate Giuliani's "husband" gave birth. Having the times change your gender certainly beats the hell out of going to Denmark for surgery.

"We have been together 40 years and in all these 40 years, we were waiting for this situation. Now we find we are as good as all other people. We are very glad we can do this."

— Eigil Axel, 67, who will marry his lover, Axel, 74, on Oct. 1 at the Copenhagen, Denmark, mayor's office on the day a new law goes into effect granting full equal rights to lesbians and gay men.

"Of course Cindy Adams (NEW YORK POST) wasn't invited on to [ABC-TV] NIGHTLINE for the "discussion," but did go to Tanger — and gave us daily reports in the post, nauseatingly going on and on about [Malcolm] Forbes and his 'date' Elizabeth Taylor. Her homophobia even surfaced in her discussion of guest Walter Cronkite who 'knows lots of queens' — and not the Greenwich Village kind. Right, Cindy. It's your friend Malcolm Forbes who knows that kind."

— OUT WEEK's Michelangelo Signorile, discussing the post's globe-trotting gossip maven Cindy Adams.

"We're here, we're queer, and we're fighting back!"

— Chant by marchers in a San Francisco protest anti-gay violence.

"The Colorado State Health Department has received reports that scores of men named Nancy Reagan are infected with the human

immunodeficiency virus."

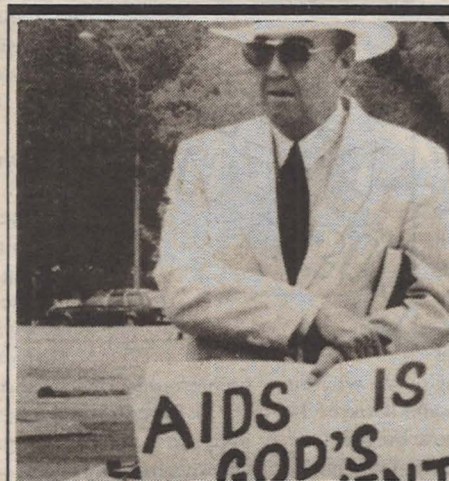
— From a SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE article that maintains the "Nancy Reagan" phenomenon [men giving their names as "Nancy Reagan" when they submit to HIV testing] is directly related to Colorado legislation that makes anonymous HIV testing illegal.

"It is such a sick treat to see these tramps out in broad daylight."

— The Lady Bunny, Chattanooga-born and bred, commenting on the annual Wigstock celebration held in New York's Tompkins Square Park.

"Maybe the pressures of being a sissy in the south pushed me into being a drag queen, I don't know. But I think it was the theatrical part that attracted me. I mean, when I saw my first queen my eyes popped out of my head and I knew I wanted to do that. It wasn't a sexual thing at all."

— The Lady Bunny again, this time in answer to the question, "What made a sweet southern boy with a sharp tongue a drag queen?" in a recent issue of OUT WEEK, New York's new lesbian/gay news magazine.



The revved-up Mel Perry. — DARE FILE PHOTO

"Stonewall is our shot heard 'round the world."

— New York City gay pride reveler to a network news reporter.

"It was the hairpin drop heard 'round the world."

— Yet another view on Stonewall Rebellion.

"Part of what Stonewall has meant to us is that virtually nobody has to grown up anymore thinking they're the only one."

— Lesbian activist Virginia Apuzzo to Cable News Network.

"The movie, MY TWO LOVES, shown recently on WKRN-Channel 2, here in Nashville, was sickening."

"The movie definitely provides credibility for the pro-gay stance. The repeat of the 1986 TV movie by ABC reflects the eroding moral integrity of the network."

"Read Jude 7."

— Mel Perry, "pastor" of Nashville's Grace Bible Presbyterian Church, in yet another letter to the editor of THE TENNESSEAN. That Mel. He sure does talk about queers a lot. Do you think he knows Pat Buchanan? Maybe we should all go by Grace Bible Presbyterian for services Sunday and see if Pat's there. Then someone could read to Mel, like he's always asking us to.

"I prefer not to study anyone's crotch at close range, for fear Republican National Chairman Lee Atwater might spread rumors."

— Columnist Mike Royko, on the perils of examining the sewn-in-the-crotch label of a pair of jeans from Francois and Marithé Girbaud. •