

*New feature!
Local Color rounds
up Tennessee news,
page 5*

Dare

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 43

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 2, 1989

Police investigate Vol State professor's murder

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Homicide detectives in metropolitan Nashville are continuing their investigation into the murder of a Volunteer State Community College professor found dead Sunday in his Goodlettsville home.

Bob Sibert, 41, of 113 Heathcote Court in Goodlettsville, was found dead in his bedroom late Sunday after his ex-wife reported him missing to police earlier in the day.

Clad only in his underwear when discovered by authorities, Sibert apparently died of a gunshot wound to his right temple. Police Tuesday found Sibert's blue 1987 Toyota, missing since the incident, in an east Nashville parking lot. Goodlettsville police told reporters that no substantive leads were found among evidence in the car, but that police forensic specialists were attempting to lift fingerprints from the vehicle.

Although Metro homicide detectives could not confirm reports that Sibert regularly patronized The Jungle Lounge, a gay nightclub at 306 Fourth Ave., South, *Dare* has learned from other sources that detectives did visit the club hoping to develop such a lead in the case.

Police further said that rumors of death threats directed at Sibert — made since his divorce three years ago from Nashville artisan Maki Sibert — were apparently un-

founded. Maki Sibert reported her former husband missing Sunday after he was two hours late to pick up their 14-year-old son.

Sibert had taught at Gallatin's Vol State for about three years.

Sibert's murder comes just three months after the brutal slaying of 34-year-old Barry McDonald, who was found dead in his Inglewood home in July. Police say McDonald was stabbed some 30 times by a still-unknown assailant. The victim died of stab wounds to the back and chest, according to the police report.

Both murders were preceded by the August, 1988, murder of Vernon Lester Larkin in the Hickory Valley area of south Nashville. Larkin, last seen leaving The Jungle with a drifter known as "Bubba," was found bludgeoned to death in the living room of his apartment. His killer has not been apprehended.

The investigation into the Sibert murder is being spearheaded by members of the Goodlettsville Police Department, with assistance from homicide detectives in the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department. At press time, a spokesperson for Metro police said he could not comment on the investigation.

The McDonald and Larkin investigations remain open, although sources concede that solving the cases may take much longer. •



Flames consume the wreckage of an apartment building in San Francisco's Marina district after last week's 7.1-Richter earthquake. Damage in the city's lesbian and gay neighborhood was slight compared to destruction elsewhere in the Bay Area, and several Castro-area bars were open and serving drinks by candlelight the night of the quake. — DARE FILE PHOTO

Civil Rights chief resigns after flap

by MARK LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

William Allen, chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, in a move criticized by lesbian and gay leaders and his fellow commissioners, gave the keynote speech for the Oct. 7 "West Coast Symposium on Public Policy and Homosexuality," a conference sponsored by an anti-gay fundamentalist group.

Following the ensuing controversy, Allen resigned his post.

• continued on page 4

New sodomy law effective Nov. 1

Tennessee bans same-sex acts

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Sweeping changes in the Tennessee Criminal Code will go into effect next Wednesday, Nov. 1, including a change which specifically declares same-sex sexual acts illegal.

Signed into law by Gov. Ned McWherter in June, the changes in the Code were adopted by members of the Tennessee General Assembly earlier in the year. Changes were included in a massive document prepared by members of the Tennessee Sentencing Commission, who had been charged by lawmakers with overhauling the state's criminal code in order to overcrowding in the state's prisons.

The statute concerning the state's "sodomy law" will change the prohibition against "crimes against nature" to a more specific ban on all homosexual acts.

Since the crimes against nature statute was rarely invoked against heterosexuals, TSC members argued for a law more specific in language if the state plans to enforce the ban on homosexual acts. The TSC had been charged with eliminating archaic language from the state's criminal code, parts of which had been unchanged for almost 200 years.

When the new law goes into effect Nov. 1, it will decriminalize heterosexual acts and reduce homosexual crimes against nature to a Class C misdemeanor, carrying a sentence of not more than 30 days and/or a fine of \$25.

According to the Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA), the section referring to homosexual acts, says that it is a "Class C misdemeanor for any person to engage in consensual 'sexual penetration' with a person of the same gender."

Sexual penetration is defined as "sexual intercourse," • continued on page 4

Food & Drug Administration plans ddl tests

Promising new AIDS drug may be made available more quickly

by JACKI MOSS
Staff Writer

If all goes according to a new plan developed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institutes of Health, evaluation and availability of the HIV antiviral agent dideoxyinosine (ddI) may be hastened.

Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan said that the plan reaffirms the government's "commitment to speeding both the development and availability of promising new drugs for AIDS whenever possible."

Dideoxyinosine has show activity against the AIDS virus in laboratory studies and in limited human studies although some people have experienced serious side effects. It was initially developed by Samuel Broder and Robert Yarchoan at the National Cancer Institute.

FDA Commissioner Frank E. Young said, "The epidemic of AIDS is extraordinary and must be met with

extraordinary measures. Since ddI is still an experimental drug, it must be carefully tested and must demonstrate safety and efficacy before it can be approved. We believe, however, that it is important to offer the drug now to people with AIDS for whom the standard treatment of zidovudine (AZT) is not an option even though there are some potentially serious side effects."

Under the new plan, clinical trials designed to determine the safety and effectiveness of ddI will be conducted by the AIDS Clinical Trials Group of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in collaboration with the drug manufacturer, Bristol-Myers Company. The trials will enroll 2,000 people with AIDS and/or ARC (AIDS related complex).

Simultaneously, the FDA has granted Bristol-Myers permission to distribute ddI through a Treatment IND (investigational new drug) for patients with AIDS or advanced ARC who cannot take AZT because of • continued on page 4

I N S I D E

Dare this week

**Double jeopardy, part 2:
what it's like to be black and gay.
Centerpiece, page 6.**



**A mixed review of
Gender Blending.
Pages, page 9.**

**What's this about Boy George
and Matt Dillon's underwear?
Loose Lips, page 12.**



ABBY R. RUBENFELD
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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.

Clarksville

Thursdays
Gay Academic Union Austin Peay State
University group for lesbians and gay
men. Room 313, Joe Morgan University Cen-
ter, APSU. 4:30pm. Info (615) 648-7107.

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.
Gay Gratitude Group Open, nonsmoking
Alcoholics Anonymous. Tennessee Valley
Unitarian Church, 3219 Kingston Pike. 7pm.

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. Info (615) 595-8686.
Knoxville's Ten Percent Monthly meet-
ing, 2nd Tuesday only, 8pm. 1320 N. Central.
Info (615) 521-6546.

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

Fridays
Gay Gratitude Group Alcoholics Anony-
mous. MCC / Knoxville, 1320 North Central.
Noon.

Memphis

Mondays
Gay Alternative Hour Radio show, WEVL-
FM 90, 6-7pm.
Memphis Gay Coalition Business meet-
ing, 1st Monday. Rm A, Memphis Public
Library, Peabody & Maclean. Info (901) 324-
4297.

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 Episco-
pal 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 Anony-
mous) 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 Wor-
ship service, 11am. 1216 Forrest Ave. Info
(901) 726-9443.
Into the Light (Women's Alcoholics Anony-
mous) 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 Anony-
mous meeting for gay men and lesbians,
Unitarian Church. 8pm.
MAGNET (Married and Gay Network) Sup-
port 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. Unitar-

ian Church. 7:30pm. Info (615) 662-0332.
Sober Sisters (Lesbian Alcoholics Anony-
mous) 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, Fran-
klin 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 Com-
munity Dinner, all you can eat. 7:30pm. \$5.
Info (615) 320-0288.

Sundays
Metropolitan Community Church Wor-
ship services, 11am and 7pm. Info (615)
320-0288.
Incest Survivors Anonymous Closed
meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd,
6pm.

Tri-Cities

Sundays
Metropolitan Community Church
Worship service, 7pm. Holston Valley Unitar-
ian Church. Info (615) 926-4393.

Tuesdays
Support Group Tri-Cities AIDS Project. For
caregivers / families of PWAs, HIV+ and ARC,
6:30pm. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays only. Info (615)
928-6101 or 753-9647

Thursdays
Support Group Appalachian AIDS Coal-
ition. For PWAs, ARC, and HIV+ in southwest
Virginia, including Bristol, TN. 3rd Thursday
only. Info (703) 985-0131.

Your nonprofit event can be listed free in
Dates. Write to *Dare*, Box 40422, Nashville,
TN 37204-0422, or phone 615 327-*Dare*
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mation 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.

Big events



Saturday, October 28
Organizational meeting Meet to
organize lesbian parents group. 10am-
noon. At Book Oasis, 2824 Dogwood
Place, Nashville. Info (615) 883-4833.

Halloween Party Metropolitan Com-
munity Church/Nashville. 131 15th Ave
North, Nashville. Dinner \$5, 7:30pm;
party \$3, 8:30pm; both \$7. Info (615)
320-0288.

Halloween Benefit Sponsored by
Univ. of Tenn. Gay & Lesbian Student
Union. Music, dancing, live entertain-
ment, prizes, refreshments. Benefits
GLSU, aids Response Knoxville and the
American Cancer Society. At Laurel The-
atre, 1538 Laurel Ave, Knoxville. \$4 ad-
mission. 8pm. Info (615) 595-8686.

Halloween Dance Sponsored by
Nashville Women's Alliance. At Unitar-
ian Universalist Church, 1808 Wood-
mont Blvd, Nashville. \$4 donation at the
door. 8:30pm. Info (615) 883-4833.

Tuesday, October 31
HALLOWEEN

Thursday, November 2-
Saturday, November 4
Benefit show *Ghosts*. Benefit for
Vanderbilt AIDS Project, sponsored by
Epiphany Players. At Moorman Audito-
rium, corner Grand & 20th Ave, Nash-
ville. 8pm. Info (615) 269-4283.

Thursday, November 9
Concert *Romanovsky & Phillips*. At
First Unitarian-Universalist Church,
1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. \$10/
single, \$18/couple. 7:30pm. Info (615)
269-4283.

Friday, November 10
Concert *Romanovsky & Phillips*. At
University of Tennessee Music Hall,
Knoxville. \$9 advance, \$12 at the door.
8pm. Info (615) 595-8686.

Sunday, November 12 &
Sunday, November 19
Seminar *Caring for Persons with AIDS*
in the Home. Sponsored by aids Re-
sponse Knoxville (aRK) and the Ameri-
can Red Cross. At Red Cross Bldg,
Knoxville. \$15 registration. 12:30-5pm
both days. Info (615) 523-AIDS.

BRIEFS

compiled by **MARK LAWRENCE**
Staff Writer

Rights groups join suit against skinheads

NEW YORK — A number of lawyers and lesbian and gay community groups have joined in supporting a \$20 million lawsuit filed against members of a group of skinheads who allegedly assaulted Rodney Johnson, a Washington, D.C., resident, because he is gay.

The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the District of Columbia Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Center for Democratic Renewal, and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith are all supporting the suit. The lawsuit alleges that several skinheads beat Johnson in the head and upper body with baseball bats while screaming, "die, faggot, die."

"Lesbians and gay men have a constitutional civil right to be free from the kind of hate-motivated violence that maimed Rodney Johnson," said Paula L. Ettelbrick, legal director for Lambda Legal Defense. "We fully intend to exhaust all possible legal means to rectify this particular situation and to put an end to all hate-motivated actions against lesbians and gay men." •

port for laws protecting the civil rights of lesbians and gays, and Church respect for personal dissent. •

Hospital settles suit with PWA

WASHINGTON — Howard University Hospital has settled a lawsuit brought against it on behalf of a person with AIDS by agreeing to adopt a hospital-wide policy allowing PWAs to be treated on all wards and in all rooms of the hospital, instead of confining their treatment to certain areas.

The case was filed in November 1988 by the Whitman-Walker Clinic, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and the civil rights law firm of Bernabei & Katz, on behalf of a 31-year old woman with AIDS, identified only as Jane Doe, who claimed she was denied proper treatment by the Hospital.

"This is an important victory against AIDS-related discrimination and for decent health care for individuals with HIV," said Lynne Bernabei, lead attorney for the plaintiff. "Segregating and treating patients infected with HIV differently than other patients undermines effective infection control throughout the entire hospital population." •

Raytheon, NGRA settle

SAN FRANCISCO — National Gay Rights Advocates has won a settlement of over \$60,000 from the Raytheon Company for AIDS discrimination. Raytheon paid NGRA \$62,726.38 following a July 7 decision by the California Court of Appeals that upheld a lower court ruling requiring Raytheon to pay back wage, attorneys' fees, and establish an "AIDS in the Workplace" program for its employees.

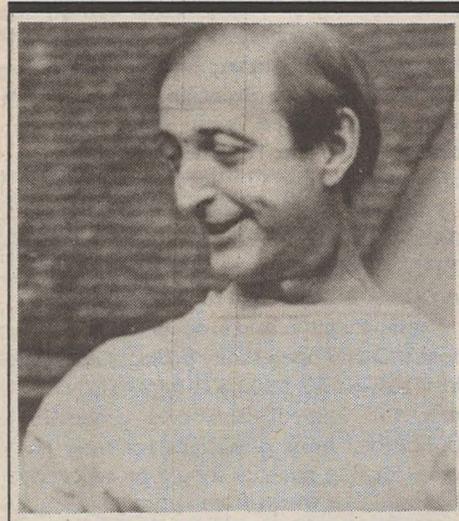
The lawsuit was brought after Raytheon refused to allow John Chadbourne, a quality control analyst who was diagnosed with AIDS, to return to work in 1983. Chadbourne died of AIDS-related complications in 1985.

"People with AIDS can now feel more secure about their jobs," said Leonard Graff, NGRA legal director. "Employers who discriminate against persons with the HIV virus risk paying large cash awards, even if the employee dies." •

Insurance suit filed in Wisconsin court

SAN FRANCISCO — National Gay Rights Advocates has filed a petition in a Wisconsin Superior Court to obtain health insurance benefits for the lesbian partner of a state employee. Jerri Lynn Phillips was denied the right to add her life-partner, Lorri Tommerup, to her group health plan because the two were not legally married.

Wisconsin has a statute barring discrimination based on an employee's marital status or sexual orientation. "Wisconsin's anti-discrimination law is meaningless if Jerri Lynn and Lorri are denied employee benefits afforded to heterosexual couples," said NGRA staff attorney Cynthia Goldstein. "Equal access to family benefits is central to equal treatment." •



Graham Chapman, openly-gay member of the Monty Python comedy troupe, died earlier this month after a long battle with cancer. — DARE FILE PHOTO

AIDS ministry top priority for Dignity/USA

WASHINGTON — Pat Roche, the newly-elected president of Dignity/USA, a ministry for lesbian and gay Catholics, named AIDS ministry as his top priority for the group.

"AIDS ministry will absolutely be this organization's number one priority," said Roche. "Through a new program, the National AIDS Project of Dignity, we will provide leadership and education to fill the void left by the Catholic Church's oftentimes inadequate efforts to minister to people with AIDS and those who are HIV positive."

Roche's platform also called for increased participation by women in Dignity and in the Church, Church condemnation of violence against lesbians and gay men, Church sup-

Border
to border,
cover
to cover.

Dare

Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly

HALLOWEEN
thing



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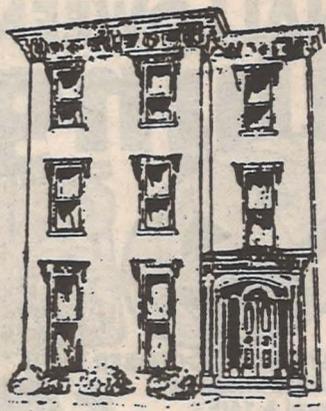
Thursday, November 9, 7:30 pm

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• Tuesday is Movie Night

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...Tennessee bans les/gay sex

• continued from page 1

cunnilingus, fellatio, anal intercourse, or any other intrusion, however slight, of any part of a person's body or of any object into the genital or anal openings of the victim's, the defendant's, or any other person's body, but emission of semen is not required."

Previously, the code prescribed a sentence of not less than five years and not more than 15 for those convicted of committing a crime against nature.

The new law is viewed by some as an improvement over the old statute, in light of the reduction of the crime to a Class C misdemeanor. However, the law previously did not specifically prohibit homosexual acts.

Before state legislators approved the changes in the criminal code, the proposals were mired in controversy from the moment the TSC released its report last fall. Not only did lesbian and gay activists object to its ban

on homosexual acts, but the report came under fire from the state's attorneys general, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the Tennessee Sheriff's Association.

Advance, the political action committee of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) had lobbied legislators throughout their 1989 session to make changes in the proposed revision. Those effort were unsuccessful, although Capitol Hill sources had told *Dare* earlier that some legislators were willing to strike the sodomy statute from the code.

On Nov. 1, Tennessee will join five other states which specifically classify homosexual acts as criminal. Homosexual acts are misdemeanors in Texas, Arkansas and Kansas. Montana and Nevada statutes classify such acts as felonies. More than half of the United States classify sodomy or crimes against nature — either homosexual or heterosexual — as felonies. •

...ddI trials underway

• continued from page 1

toxicity. The FDA has also granted the company permission to distribute ddI under an open safety protocol for patients whose disease has substantially progressed despite AZT therapy and who have no other treatment options.

While the recent studies were promising, dose-related toxicities require further investigation and monitoring of the drug. The studies found that most people tolerated ddI, but some people who received dosages in the higher range experienced painful nerve damage to the feet, and, less commonly, pancreatic damage. Investigators found that the toxicities appear to be reversible if detected early and the drug discontinued.

The Phase 2 clinical trials of ddI will be a comparison of ddI and AZT (the only drug proven effective for treatment of AIDS). Protocol 116 of the trials will be a randomized, double-blind study of ddI and AZT in 1,500 people, 900 of whom have had little or no treatment with AZT and 600 of whom have taken AZT from two months to a year.

Protocol 117 will compare ddI and AZT in 750 people who have been on AZT for at least a year. Protocol 118 will include 360 people who cannot take AZT because of serious drug toxicities. It will compare three different

doses of ddI.

Through the Treatment IND mechanism, people who experienced severe anemia or other dose-limiting adverse reactions to AZT will be eligible to receive ddI through a program administered and funded by Bristol-Myers Company of New York. The patients on this protocol will be monitored by their physicians for toxicity, as well.

The open safety protocol offered by Bristol-Myers will allow ddI to be studied in people with AIDS whose disease has progressed substantially despite AZT therapy.

Although Bristol-Myers is not charging for the cost of the drug in any of these programs, there are likely to be physician and laboratory charges associated with receiving ddI through either the Treatment IND or open safety protocols.

Physicians and people with AIDS and/or ARC interested in these trials may call 1-800-TRIALS-A, a toll-free service offering information about AIDS clinical trials.

Physicians interested in details of the Treatment IND and open safety protocol may call Bristol-Myers at 1-800-662-7999. The company will immediately begin processing applications from physicians for their patients. Eligible patients should be receiving ddI about two weeks from approval. •

...Allen resigns amid flap

• continued from page 1

Approximately 200 activists gathered to protest outside the the Pan Pacific Hotel in Anaheim, California, where the symposium was being held. Police arrested 39 of the demonstrators for blocking the entrance to the room where Allen was to speak on the topic, "Blacks? Animals? Homosexuals? What Is a Minority?"

The event was sponsored by the California Coalition for Traditional Values, a fundamentalist group led by the Rev. Louis Sheldon, an opponent of lesbian and gay rights.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) called Allen's participation "sad and appalling, and deeply antithetical to principles of equality and fairness."

In a letter sent to Allen before the speech, Urvashi Vaid, NGLTF executive director, said the conference "is riddled with open hostility and prejudice toward gay and lesbian citi-

zens. I regret that as Commission Chairman you will align yourself with some of the most virulent hatemongers in this country," wrote Vaid.

The other members of the Civil Rights Commission voted unanimously against Allen's appearance at the symposium.

"Gays and lesbians are often accused, erroneously, of using Federal funds to 'promote homosexuality,'" said Robert Bray, NGLTF public information director. "We object strenuously to the use of Federal funds and taxpayer's money for promoting bigotry."

Allen's plane was delayed by the weather and he did not arrive until after the protest.

"We've shown people that something like this can't occur, even in Orange County with its reputation for support of right-wing causes," said Jeff LeTourneau, co-founder of the Orange County Visibility League, which organized the protest. •

LOCAL COLOR

compiled from **STAFF REPORTS**

Knoxville

KTP disbanded

Due to a lack of interest, Knoxville Ten Percent (KTP), an organization for lesbians and gay men has disbanded, according to a former office of the group.

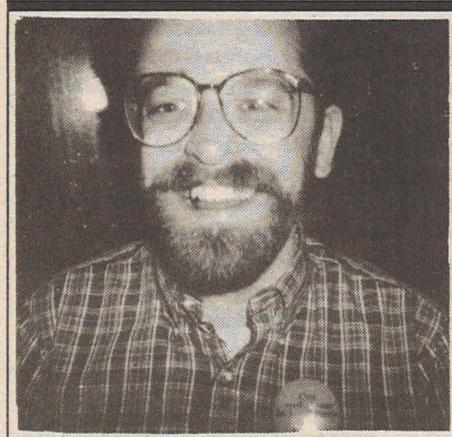
KTP had been active for the past several years and earlier this year held a number of meetings and social events. However, interest in the organization waned and it is now defunct. •

Homophobia meet set

A seminar entitled "Homophobia in Religion and Society" will be held Monday, Oct. 30, at the Immaculate Conception Church Hall on Summit Hill Drive and Walnut Street in Knoxville.

Sponsored by the New York-based Center for Homophobia Education, the seminar will be facilitated by Jeannine Gramick and Robert Nugent. Both have been speaking and writing on the topic of homosexuality since 1971. In 1977, the co-founded New Ways Ministry, a national reconciliation ministry for the Catholic Church and lesbian and gay people, serving as co-directors until 1984. In 1988, they co-edited THE VATICAN AND HOMOSEXUALITY and recently published "Homosexuality: Protestant, Catholic and Jewish Perspectives" for THE JOURNAL OF HOMOSEXUALITY.

Cost for the seminar is \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. For information, phone (615) 522-1508. — Michael Sanders



Rick Bray, NOW state secretary. — DARE FILE PHOTO

State NOW meets

Molly Yard, national president of the National Organization for Women, delivered the keynote address during last Saturday's luncheon session at the state meeting of NOW in Knoxville.

Approximately 100 people attended the weekend conference, according to NOW activist Wanda Mathis of Nashville.

"Overall, it was a pretty upbeat conference considering what we're facing. We're essentially fighting for our lives," Mathis said. "The spirit of the delegates was very good."

Re-elected as Tennessee president of NOW was Susan McKenzie of Memphis. Vice presidents are Lynne Cushing, Nashville (politics), and Pat Waters, Athens (communications).

Rick Bray of Memphis was elected as the

first man to serve as state secretary and Sharon Lundin, Chattanooga, was named treasurer.

The conference was held at Knoxville's Best Western Campus Inn. •

Memphis

MGC elects officers

Officers for the Memphis Gay Coalition (MGC) were elected during the group's annual meeting in October.

Elected were MGC president Ken Horton, vice-president Vincent Astor, treasurer Cecil McLeod and secretary John Stilwell. The officers and newly-elected board members will officially take office on January 1, 1990.

Among primary goals set for MGC in the coming year will be continued support for the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center. •

Leather is GayRap topic

September's GayRap session at the Memphis Public Library's main branch featured a discussion of leather and its implications in the lives of lesbians and gay men.

Historical background provided the basis for the discussion which followed, featuring representatives from several men's leather clubs and nightclubs.

Women and leather was the topic for October's GayRap and included a discussion of femininity, masculinity and leather.

The GayRap group meets the third Monday of each month. The meetings will move to the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center when it opens in December. •

Nashville

NWA plans crafts show

Nashville Women's Alliance (NWA) is sponsoring an arts and crafts show for women artisans in December, according to organizer Barbara Savage.

The show, to be held Dec. 2 from 2 to 8 p.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Boulevard, Nashville, hopes to include works by women artisans from throughout the region.

Any women artisans interested in participating are asked to call (615) 269-9670 or (615) 883-4833 for further details. •

Tri-Cities

TAP moves to new office

Tri-Cities AIDS Project (TAP), a community-based services and education organization, recently moved into new offices at 100 Spring Street in Johnson City.

TAP will be electing a new board of directors at its November meeting. The new board can have up to 15 members, with the deadline for nominations just past.

TAP offices are available for meetings, counseling and consultation. Office hours are restricted to Tuesdays, from 1 to 5 p.m., or by appointment. Volunteers are sought to enable expansion of hours and to staff an information/referral line.

For more information, phone (615) 928-6101 or (615) 753-9647. •

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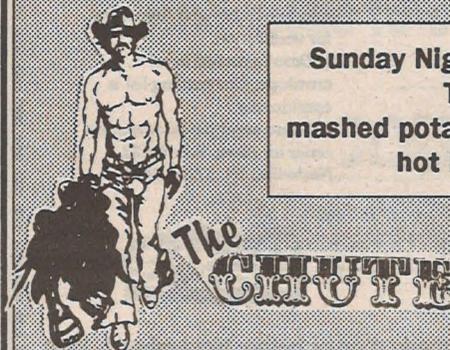
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- MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
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Tuesday, October 31

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CENTRE
Double jeopardy

"I want to serve my community as a man, as a gay man, and member of the black community. I also want my human rights respected as a man, as a gay man, and member of the black community. I don't want to be labeled faggot anymore than I want to be called nigger. I have been forced by society to pay a price for being black. I don't want to pay yet another price when I come home."

—STEPHAN LEE DAIS

Second in a series by **LAURA TEK** Staff Writer

PHIL IS A BLACK MAN, living in Nashville, who knows what it is like to encounter the twin evils of prejudice and discrimination. As a black gay man, he knows what it is like to be doubly oppressed.

He speaks candidly about his life, addressing the topics of activism, AIDS and interracial dating. Phil agreed to speak only on condition his last name not be used.

Phil's AIDS activism started with Nashville CARES, Tennessee's oldest AIDS services organization, serving as its volunteer counseling coordinator and new volunteer coordinator. He was also involved with Minority AIDS Outreach in Nashville and, during his years in Georgia, AIDS Atlanta.

"I enjoy working within the black community and educating them about the AIDS crisis. I feel I can be very effective because I am black and gay and I am very knowledgeable on the AIDS issue. I don't mind going into those black communities and using myself that way. I feel I must use my race to educate others, because unfortunately most in the black community still view AIDS as a gay white man's disease," Phil said.

The prejudice and resentment Phil encounters because he is a gay black man is further burdened by his preference for dating white men.

"Most of my relationships have been with white men. Contrary to what one may think — that it's because I want to change my color or to better myself — it's simply because that's who I am attracted to.

"I face a great deal of discrimination and prejudice from both white and black gays because I date white men. I hear comments like 'does it rub off?' or myths that black men are

supposedly more well-endowed than white men," he said.

Phil belongs to an organization that lends support to interracial gay relationships called Black and White Men Together (BWMT). The group started in San Francisco years ago and grew to include chapters in Memphis and Atlanta, the two closest to Nashville. Phil is a member of the Atlanta chapter.

But hundreds of miles away is a long way for interracial gay couples to seek support. Why doesn't Nashville have a chapter when other cities of comparable size do?

"I think it's because Nashville still isn't used to interracial relationships, both gay and straight. There was a very successful, white-collar white executive that I knew in Nashville who was dismissed from his job simply because his black lover once came to his office. The attitude was very clearly 'This is what you date?!' So a lot of people, black and white, will go to a different city, like Atlanta, thinking it will be easier for them because then nothing will get back to their home town.

"There were several guys that I knew in Atlanta who were from Nashville, but back home they never gave me the time of day. Once we were in Atlanta, several miles away from home, they thought it was okay to date me. And I did go along with this for a while, but I knew deep down that if we were back in Nashville, we wouldn't be doing this.

"To some gay Nashvillians it's still not acceptable to date someone of a different race. For a white guy to be seen with a black lover the attitude among some whites is that he's a loser," Phil said.

SOME PEOPLE with a racist attitude, be they black or white, will go so far as to damage the reputation of someone involved in an interracial relationship, spreading rumors and lies. Others, seemingly more accepting and liberal, apparently believe the most offensive stereotypes and myths, actions which belie their own prejudices.

"Sometimes, it still bothers me. I recently met a very nice white man and we dated a few times," Phil



BL
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R P I E C E

ly: black and gay



BLACK GAY

recalled. "But after a while he had admitted that his biggest concern was what his friends were going to think of him when they saw us out in public together.

He was really afraid."

The man's actions, unfortunately, are not isolated incidents. Instead, it seems that both blacks and white are apt to act that way.

"But I believe it doesn't matter who you date. It's the sense of pride, dignity and respect that you have for yourself that makes race not an issue," Phil said.

TO ILLUSTRATE his points, Phil mentioned a character created by actress/comedian Whoopi Goldberg for her one-woman show: a little black girl who puts a white towel on her head, pretending it's her "luxurious, long, blonde hair."

Her mother tells her that her hair is not like that. The little girl refuses to take the towel off, saying that nobody on TV looks like her.

"So her mother tells her that no matter what she did, that even if she took a bath in bleach, she would still stay the same color. And Whoopi realizes this and says 'You're right, because I tried that once and the only thing I got was burned,'" Phil recounted. "She was talking about how it feels to be different from everybody else, to have no positive role models to look up to, and to not have a support system behind you."

Does the gay black man face more discrimination and violence from the black community, or does his lesbian sister?

"Definitely black lesbians face more prejudice and risk more bodily harm from their own community than black gay men do because black gay women are an affront to a straight black man's ego. He figures that she doesn't need him. And that just doesn't sit too well with a straight black man," Phil said. "A straight black man will tolerate a black gay man over a gay black woman because he just sees the gay black man as weak and will ignore him. But the black lesbian will anger him."

Has Phil ever encountered any violence because of his race or sexual orientation?

"No, I've never experienced any overt aggression toward me. I guess my size slows them down and

makes them think twice before doing anything. And I use that to my advantage. For example, for the last two years at Nashville's gay pride parade and rally I was a peacekeeper [parade marshal]," he answered.

Has Nashville experienced any positive changes within the gay community in regard to black people?

"The attitude in Nashville has changed a great deal. People are beginning to accept blacks and whites together more. I see more and more couples coming out. Crossing the color line seems to be getting easier," he said. "There is definitely an increase in the number of blacks and women attending the bars. I'm glad that they're getting a more diverse group of people. The gay community needs to do that, encourage all to mix together because if it [the community] doesn't, then the old barriers are retained and that causes one group of people to oppress another."

IF THINGS ARE getting more comfortable for gay blacks within the white gay community then what will become of the black underground?

"There will always be a black underground because there will always be gay blacks who will just feel safer there.

There will always be people who will have trouble grasping their sexuality and/or who are afraid to acknowledge it. So the underground will continue to exist but I personally would like to see the need for it to decrease," he said.

"Being gay is ironically like a religion. It knows no color. Only a love for one's kind. Prejudice has no place in an already oppressed society."

"Blacks know how to feel oppressed. And they know how to fight out of it. Oppression, in general, is something both blacks and gays need to work on together. Gay is just our common denominator.

"We all need to become more educated. If you're white and you want to know more about someone who is black, just ask them. And vice versa. The only way you will learn about someone or about something is to ask." •

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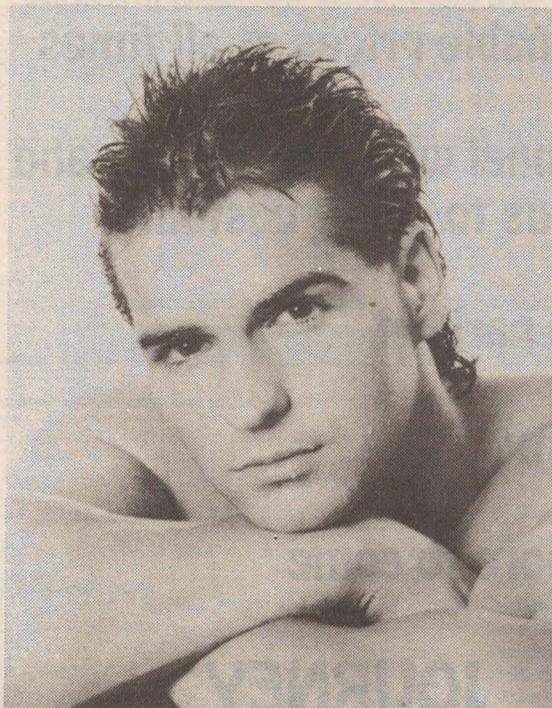
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CURTAINS

Just exactly what is...?

THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSE. By Christopher Durang. Directed by Greg McPeak.
Actor's Playhouse of Nashville. Through Nov. 4.

reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**

Editor

CHRISTOPHER DURANG'S THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSE is yet another in the string of somewhat disturbing and strangely amusing comedies to come from the pen of the theatre's most daring young playwright.

Thanks to a stellar production mounted by Actor's Playhouse of Nashville, local audiences are treated to a healthy dose of Durang-inspired lunacy. Under Greg McPeak's direction, NATURE AND PURPOSE is a stimulating foray into absurdity, performed by an amazingly talented cast.

Ostensibly, Durang's comedy focuses on the Mann family of Maplewood, New Jersey — Steve (Douglas Odom as the latent Catholic dreaming of glory through laity) and Elanore (Karen Mundy as the abused and misused matriarch), the parents of three maladjusted sons: Donald (Troy Carrington), a drug pusher and a pimp; Gary (Dan McGar), a homosexual taken to wearing purple scarves; and Andy (Barry Lindsey), whose penis was amputated during a freak reaping accident. Into this perfect little family setting comes two agents from God, Ronald (Greg Welsh, who provides the narrative thread that connects the scenes) and Elaine May Alcott (Reece Faw, who takes on various forms to instigate action in the Mann home).

Running throughout the sometimes tasteless, sometimes sick, but always hilarious vignettes that relate the Manns' stories to the

audience is Durang's warped view of Catholicism. In its way, THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSE has the same sensibilities as a John Waters film.

But simmering beneath the comedic surface is a tale of oppression and redemption, repression and resurrection. Durang's grotesque plot twists and turns, telling in its own somewhat perverse way the story of Christ's crucifixion (read Andy as Christ, Gary and Donald as the two thieves).

Durang's script takes no prisoners in its treatment of the Catholic patriarchy, reducing the Pope to a befuddled, confused primate stalked by assassins and pretenders. (The Pope has traveled to Weehauken to bless the air and is overcome by the smog and three kidnapers: "If you die, I'll declare you a martyr and wear a red gown," one of the assassins tells another.)

Frankly, NATURE AND PURPOSE is a difficult play to discuss without giving the plot away. But, trust me, it's frighteningly entertaining on the whole and slightly offensive in parts.

This production's strongest assets, however, are McPeak's skillful direction and superb casting.

Actor's Playhouse stalwart Karen Mundy has never been better than in her role as the put-upon Elanore. Mundy captures perfectly the essence of her character, from the garish

• continued on page 11



It's a Carnival

A THURBER CARNIVAL. Based upon works by James Thurber. Directed by Phil Perry and Debi Shinnars.
Lakewood Theater, Lakewood. Through October 21.

reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**

Editor

JAMES THURBER'S writings are an acquired taste — they are full of acerbic, cynical, dry humor, underscored by a healthy dose of pragmatism and truth — and they don't suit everyone.

But Lakewood Theatre's recent production of A THURBER CARNIVAL goes a long way in introducing Thurber to new audiences. Performed by a spirited cast, the show was an euphoric evening of laughter-induced entertainment.

Set on a bare stage, with just a minimum of props, the secret of the show's success rests squarely on the shoulders of the directing team and the talented cast they assembled. The theatre's intimate setting makes the actors' job more difficult — you can't fluff lines and miss cues when the audience is just inches away. But they rise to

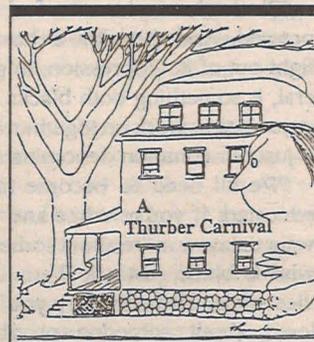
the occasion in grand style, imbuing the work with vigor and aplomb.

In a series of vignettes, the play features any number of raucous tales, told in fine and funny style by the nine-member cast. Opening

with a zany game of musical chairs, replete with crackling one-liners and snappy asides ("I want to be a femme fatale, but I don't want any men around"), the show's threadbare plot evolves into an opening story about "the night the bed fell on father," Thurber's "high-water mark in Columbus, Ohio."

From there it's on to "Fables for our time," including a tale about the Sheep family ("Mother doesn't always know best," according to the fable's moral), the unicorn in the garden eating roses and

• continued on page 11



PAGES

The limits of Gender Blending

GENDER BLENDING: CONFRONTING THE LIMITS OF DUALITY. By Holly Devor.
 Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1989. 178 pages. \$35, hardcover, \$12.95, paper.
 reviewed by **SHERRE DRYDEN**
 Book Editor

IN HER NEW GENDER BLENDING Holly Devor examines the processes of becoming gendered and of attributing gender through an investigation of the lives and attitudes of 14 women, most of them lesbians, who are regularly mistaken for men.

Initially, Devor's category of "gender blenders" sounds as though it could include a multitude of women. As she points out, both social scientific studies and personal experience confirm that visual indicators of maleness tend to take precedence over almost any number of indications of femaleness.

Many, if not most, short-haired women have occasionally been addressed by clerks and other strangers as "sir."

For some, the mistakes are a regular occurrence. What is different about Devor's "gender blenders" is that, at some point, they actually, perhaps consciously, embraced masculinity and rejected femininity.

They "shared the assumption of the dominant patriarchal gender scheme that to be feminine and a woman was less desirable than to be masculine and a man."

Devor begins her study with introductory chapters on the biological bases of gender, including chromosomal abnormalities and the effect of hormones, and the psychological and sociological theories of gender. While she concedes that physiological sex is obviously related to gender, she dismisses studies that claim that traditionally defined characteristics of femininity and masculinity are biologically determined.

In the chapter of the psychological theories of gender Devor outlines psychoanalytic, social learning, cognitive development and gender schema theories of gender development objectively, pointing out the strengths and weaknesses of each theory. Since Devor's purpose is not to explain gender development, but to examine the gender identity of a particular group, it is not neces-

sary for her to definitively establish loyalty to one theory. For most of the remainder of the study, however, she uses Sandra Bem's gender schema theory as her base.

Gender schema theory incorporates ideas from both cognitive developmental theories and social learning theories. It proposes that children learn to classify themselves and others according to a sex-typed gender schema. According to Devor, "they learn to do this because they have a cognitive desire to classify, and a social impetus to classify according to sex or gender, rather than according to any number of possible classification schemata." Thus it becomes a necessary to categorize every-

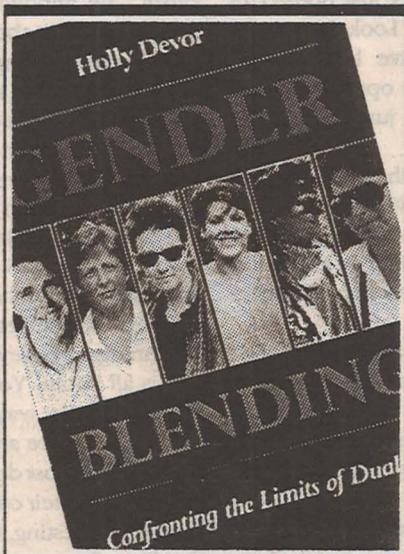
one as female and male (sex) and girl/woman and boy/man (gender) before any other transaction can occur.

In one sense it is unfortunate that Devor felt it necessary to include these introductory chapters, which take up nearly half of the text. The studies of the individual women are by far the most interesting part of the book, and I would have appreciated more detail. It occasionally seems that Devor assumes too much based on the evidence she presents and that she relies too much on the women's own interpretations of their lives.

More detail about the women, and more analysis by Devor would have strengthened the book. In another sense, though, these introductory chapters are important because it makes the book readily accessible to an untrained audience. Devor's language and her research method demonstrate a commitment to feminism.

AS GENDER BLENDING progresses it becomes clear that the women Devor is talking about are neither academics nor social scientists.

WITHOUT THE BACKGROUND chapters it would have been unlikely that her subjects (or other women like them) would have been able to completely understand her analysis of their own lives. •



Many, if not most, short-haired women have occasionally been addressed by clerks and other strangers as "sir." For some, the mistakes are a regular occurrence. What is different about Devor's "gender blenders" is that, at some point, they actually, perhaps consciously, embraced masculinity and rejected femininity.

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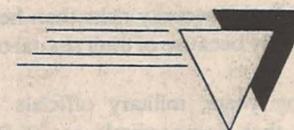
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VIEWS

Tennessee's shame

TENNESSEE WILL MAKE infamous history next week when changes in the state criminal code go into effect and officially declares same-sex sexual acts illegal.

In doing so, Tennessee will join with five other repressive — and oppressive — states that specifically define homosexual acts as illegal. Tennessee will be one of four states that declare same-sex acts misdemeanors, while two more classify such acts as felonies.

The changes in the state's criminal code were included in proposals adopted by the Tennessee Sentencing Commission and presented to the state legislature during its 1989 session.

While on the surface, the change seems an improvement — penalties are changed from a prison term of not less than five years and not more than 15 years to a maximum sentence of 30 days and/or a \$25 fine — it is, in truth, a backward step for a state that prides itself in its newfound progressiveness.

Unfortunately, many lesbians and gay men in the state have failed to grasp the gravity of the changes in the law. Instead, they view the new law as a symbol of the changing morés and attitudes among state lawmakers.

However, a specific ban on homosexual acts is not an improvement. At best, it is a lateral move.

The Tennessee Sentencing Commission continues to meet and the General Assembly will reconvene in January. To bring about future changes in the state's laws regarding same-sex acts, we urge you to lobby your elected representatives and the members of the Commission. •

Military bigots

THE PENTAGON this week made news when it rejected a report on homosexuals in the military.

The report, prepared by psychologists, determined that lesbians and gay men are no more likely to be security risks than heterosexuals, simply because of their sexual orientation.

For many years, military officials have contended that homosexuals are unfit for service because their sexual orientation makes them prime targets for blackmail and intelligence subterfuge. The lesbian and gay community, however, has countered that such arguments are ridiculous.

But when a report comes its way lending credence to the latter conclusion, the Pentagon once again turns a deaf ear, saying it will commission yet another report — at taxpayers' expense — to delve into the sensitive issue.

Once again, the Pentagon's hierarchy displays its ignorance, rejecting a report they commissioned, simply because it does not offer the hoped-for conclusions.

The actions by Pentagon officials, unfortunately, belie deep-seated homophobia and prejudice that does not belong anywhere in the public sector. It sends out the unfortunate message that at least part of the population is unwelcome. •

Dare

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

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

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Volume 2, Number 43

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SOAPBOX

Oscar, we need you

by NANCY LYN DEFINE
Contributing Writer

DEAR MR. WILDE. Come back to us. Please. We need you. I think we've gotten confused. Somehow the earnestness of being important has replaced the original idea. Along the way we seem to have lost the main character. And Dorian Gray just doesn't fit into the production as well. Look, I know it's understandable. Times have been tough. Between AIDS and people opposed to our very existence, I guess we just couldn't be expected not to change.

Don't get me wrong. For the most part, the changes have been good. We've learned to fight, to survive, to love on a deeper level. We grew up. As the saying goes, "You ain't a kid anymore, kiddo. You ain't ever gonna be a kid again."

Now, all over the country, newly politicized gay men and women are replacing their baubles with beamers, their bangles with car phones. It seems like everyone is calling themselves Dorian these days. I guess Earnest is passé.

But...well, I miss the old days. Not the loneliness and bigotry, of course. Not the fear that no one else was like I was and that what I was could never exactly be "right." No. Not those days. Goodbye and good riddance to them.

But sometimes I wonder if we didn't throw away the baby with the bath water. Sometimes I wonder if maybe we should be taking the issues seriously...not ourselves. I mean, it's okay to dress like Barbara Bush (as long as there's a picture of Eddie Haskell pinned to our underwear). Instead, I have this sneaky suspicion that we're secretly hiding copies of the WALL STREET JOURNAL under our designer bras and jock straps.

Maybe it's that we've become almost too "respectable." Maybe we, like hostages, have begun to identify with our oppressors. Or maybe, like a person who comes to Catholicism late in life, we have embraced our new sense of "acceptability" with a zealotry that has made us forget that there was much in our culture that was good, that made us special, that the heterosexual world would do well to learn from.

My cousin Tom has been wanting to go to

a gay bar for a long time. Ever since his wife told him that he'd managed to insult every single one of their friends with his rather caustic sense of humor.

"Heterosexuals take themselves too seriously," he announced sadly. "That's what must be so great about being gay. I mean, you guys invented camp!"

I didn't have the heart to tell him that "gay" isn't exactly what it once was; that "bantering repartee" has been replaced by pomposity; that "bons mots" are about as popular in our social realm as bon-bons on a fat farm.

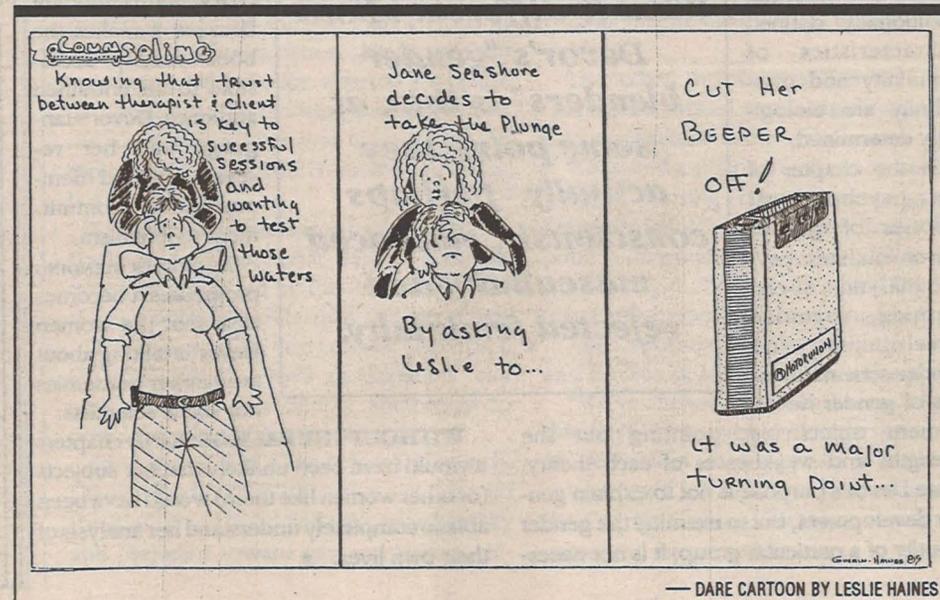
These days, our lifestyle is about as socially convivial as an IRS audit. Actually, there are an inordinate number of us who look like IRS auditors. Worse yet, I think some of us are beginning to believe that that's what being gay is all about. You see, Mr. Wilde, somewhere along the way, we forgot how to laugh.

Oh sure, there are still a lot of funny gay people. They just don't realize it. They're too caught up in their own reflections. And when they're not nesting, they're resting. Gone are the days of swaggering and dishing. Now it's caucusing or processing. Dykes on bikes are wearing heels while drag queens bid on take-over deals. And nobody cares about the rainbow anymore; just the pot of gold.

So, if you could find the time, dear Oscar, I think your spirit better pay us a visit. Otherwise, we may wake up one of these days and be taking this whole "respectability" thing as seriously as we've begun taking ourselves. We may become the very things we have fought so hard against. And, somehow, I'd rather live in one of your plays that in one of Eugene O'Neill's or Arthur Miller's. And we don't need anymore deaths, salesmen or otherwise. What we need is to remember that THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST is worth a lot more than the earnestness with which we are pursuing our self-importance.

Well, Mr. Wilde, a lot of us are looking forward to seeing your influence around again really soon. Otherwise, the "gay '90s" may well become the "Dorian Gray '90s."

Oh, one more thing. If it isn't too much trouble, when you stop by could you bring Noël Coward with you? •



— DARE CARTOON BY LESLIE HAINES

BETWEEN THE LINES

Abortion forces tough choices

by JACKI MOSS
Staff Writer

NOW THAT the Supreme Court has tossed the abortion rights issue back to the states' courts, the battlelines are clearly drawn and states are beginning their individual assaults on ROE V. WADE.

Although it is far from a certainty that ROE V. WADE will be overturned by most states, the constant chipping away at women's rights to control their own bodies places the future of legal abortions for all women in the United States in jeopardy.

After abortion laws were liberalized in the 1970s, the death rate from abortions dropped dramatically. Before then, underground abortions were big business. Even organized crime was in the abortion business. And abortions were just that: business, not medicine—except for some underground factions which performed safe abortions.

A group of women in Chicago who called themselves "Janes" performed illegal, yet safe, abortions to meet the crisis. Many physicians, some of whom were genuinely concerned about women, also performed illegal abortions risking losing their medical licenses and possible criminal prosecution.

Now, with a valid fear of going back to the dark ages before abortion liberalization, some groups are looking to the future should the worst possible scenario — ROE V. WADE being overturned or abortion rights being severely constricted — become reality.

Today, most pro-choice leaders are taking a first line of defense stance of doing everything possible right now to make sure those rights are not taken away or compromised.

Cathy Fenner, executive director of Tennesseans Keeping Abortions Legal and Safe

(TKALS) said, "We are not ready to give up yet and plan as if ROE V. WADE will be overturned. Our focus is to activate pro-choice people and wake them up to the fight which is at hand," she said.

"We want to convince them to contact their legislators and fight this battle at the state level, state by state. Only by their legislators hearing from more pro-choice people than pro-lifers will we make the point and make them keep ROE V. WADE from being overturned," Fenner said.

Fenner said that although she has heard of clinics in other parts of the country planning to work to blackmarket RU 486 (the highly controversial French birth control pill), she knows of no such movement locally.

Elsewhere, other groups are looking closely at training groups of women in the menstrual extraction technique. Using this technique, a pregnancy can be terminated through the eighth week. The \$90 kit is now available in some areas and would probably become the primary method of self-help abortions.

As with most volatile issues, both proponents and detractors disagree vehemently about the technique. Supporters say the technique is safe and that women will prefer going to a group of trained, caring women for illegal abortions, as opposed to going to a back-alley butcher about whom they know nothing.

Those who disagree say that the method is not proven safe, especially since it may be performed by someone other than a physician. They also question whether the training afforded the people who will perform the abortion is adequate. •

...Nature and Purpose

• continued from page 8

red lipstick to the slightly frazzled appearance.

As her husband and sons, Odom, Carrington, Lindsey and McGar deliver memorable performances that are oddly believable despite their broadly-drawn characters.

As Ronald, Greg Welsh is slightly eerie, yet somehow comforting — in other words, perfect in his role as an agent of God.

But it's Reece Faw as Elaine May Alcott who is nothing short of astounding. Her role calls for her to play everything from a radical nun speaking in tongues to a prostitute, from a

census lady to a Nazi-inspired principal's secretary.

In the process, Faw displays a range that's almost unbelievable. Hers is certainly the best individual performance seen during the early part of this theatre season.

And THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSE may be the most satisfying night of theatre we've had this season. It's theatre at its best — electrifying performances delivered without fancy costumes or clownish makeup, without an epic set or inventive lighting techniques. It's theatre that attacks the senses, fully satisfying the urge to applaud. •

...it's a Carnival

• continued from page 8

other such craziness.

A hit of pathos creeps into the evening with "World War 12," an allegorical tale about the destruction — and rebirth — of civilization.

And, of course, no Thurber retrospective would be complete without a salute to Walter Mitty, the middle-aged family man taken to flights of fancy.

The cast performs admirably and it's difficult to single any out for special praise (and the program was no help in determining who's who in the cast), although Jill Bates, Kirk Brown and Shelton Clark stand out with

their multi-faceted performances.

But that's not to say Jerry Craighead, Karen Gardner, Greg Grimsley, Dan Hayes, Michelle Thompson and Lorna Lee weren't good.

On the contrary, the entire company gave good performances, despite a few weak moments (but this was closing weekend, so it's unfair to be too picky about pace and energy.)

Direction by Phil Perry and Debi Shinnars made good use of the stage area and quickened the pace of the evening, sending the nine actors scurrying throughout the theatre in truly zany fashion. •

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JÄGER-MONSTER NIGHT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28
THE EXPLODING PUMPKINS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29
AMATEUR STRIP NIGHT II
(HALLOWEENIE)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30
TRICK OR TREAT TALENT NIGHT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31
HALLOWEEN SHOW
COSTUME CONTEST, BUFFET,
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