

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

Dare

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 44

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

NOVEMBER 3-9, 1989

Brass reject Defense reports on lesbians, gay men

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Calling them "wasteful, flawed and offensive," the Pentagon has rejected two Department of Defense-commissioned reports that conclude that the American military should reexamine its policies which discriminate against lesbians and gay men.

Release of the two reports coincides with the publication in THE NEW YORK TIMES of a new Gallup poll which shows increasing acceptance of lesbians and gay men by the public.

The poll, reported in the October 25 edition of THE TIMES, showed that 71% of those polled believe homosexuals should have "equal rights in terms of job opportunities." Some 60% said lesbians and gay men should be allowed to serve in the military.

The reports, called "Nonconforming Sexual Orientations and Military Suitability," were commissioned by the Department of Defense and executed by the Defense Personnel Security Research and Education Center. The first report released, a half-inch thick unclassified study, dated December, 1988, was authored by psychologists Theodore R. Sarbin and Kenneth E. Karols.

The report urges the military to end its ban on lesbians and gay men. Citing changes in American

society's acceptance of homosexuals, the report's authors contend that the government will most likely be forced to reexamine its anti-gay policies.

"The Defense Department policy which discriminates against gays and lesbians employs precisely the same arguments used against blacks and women before they were integrated into the armed services, namely, that their inclusion is 'contrary to good order and discipline,'" said openly gay U.S. Rep. Gerry Studds (D-Mass.) whose office leaked the reports to the press last week.

Studds had been asked for help in obtaining release of the studies by lawyers from the New York-based Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, shortly after they filed suit earlier this year on behalf of Joseph Steffan, a midshipman discharged from the U.S. Naval Academy because of his sexual orientation.

"Under prevailing social conditions, a public admission of homosexuality carries less stigma than in earlier times and is no legal bar to most employment," the report states. "Our studied conclusion is that the military services will soon be asked by the courts or the Congress to reexamine their policies and practices regarding recruitment and retention of men and women

• continued on page 4



Sue Hyde, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Privacy Project director and liaison to the Military Freedom Project, condemned the Pentagon's rejection of two reports on lesbians and gay men in the military: "[T]he Pentagon is out of touch with reality and right in touch with military bigotry and homophobia." — DARE FILE PHOTO

NGLTF sets Creating Change conference

by JACKI MOSS
Staff Writer

As the gay '90s approach, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) annual Creating Change Conference assumes even more significance. The roster of speakers and presenters at this year's conference reads like a who's who list for political action.

The second annual conference, to be held in Washington, D.C., November 10-12 will set the tone for the 1990s and offer skills-building for the gay and lesbian community to help us understand and create positive

• continued on page 4

Nun, priest bash homophobia

Hold seminar in Knoxville

by MICHAEL SANDERS
Staff Writer

Some 20 people from throughout eastern Tennessee were in Knoxville Monday for a day-long seminar entitled "Homophobia in Religion and Society," conducted by a nun and a priest who have been lecturing on the topic of homosexuality since 1971.

The seminar, termed "affirmative" by persons attending, attracted members of the Catholic and Protestant clergy, Metropolitan Community Church (a lesbian and gay-affirmative denomination with congregations in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Nashville and Johnson City), aids Response Knoxville (aRK), Mountain Womyn's Exchange and Habitat for Humanity, in addition to health care workers and providers. Most participants were from Knox and surrounding counties.

Sponsored by the New York-based Center for Homophobia Education, the seminar was facilitated by Sister Jeannine Gramick and Father Robert Nugent. In 1977, they co-founded New Ways Ministry, a national reconciliation ministry for the Roman Catholic Church and lesbian and gay people, serving as co-directors until 1984. In 1988, they co-edited THE VATICAN AND HOMOSEXUALITY.

Focus of the seminar was defining homophobia and "homonegativity," which, according to Gramick and Nugent, may be a more dangerous and insidious phenomenon. An example of "homonegativity" is the refusal to equate heterosexual and homosexual relationships.

A discussion of religion and homophobia was the topic of smaller group value studies, as was a discussion of the effect AIDS has had on homophobia and, conversely, the effect of homophobia on people with AIDS.

Several videos were screened, including THE PINK

• continued on page 4

Preacher attacks homosexuals at funeral

Clarksville Highway Church of Christ scene of walkout

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Jeffrey Kevin Winters, 25, who died of congestive heart failure last Friday after a long battle with AIDS, was remembered during a memorial service at Nashville's Edgehill United Methodist Church Tuesday.

The memorial service followed by two days a funeral at the Clarksville Highway Church of Christ, near Joelton, which was marred by anti-gay remarks from the minister conducting the service, remarks which caused 11 people to leave the church in disgust.

Sunday's funeral amounted to no more than "a public stoning," according to Jerry Graham, Winters'

life partner, when the minister, David Hunter, began to speak of AIDS as punishment for sin.

Using the prodigal son parable as the basis of his message, Hunter said Winters lived "a lifestyle contrary to God's will, which resulted in his being the victim of a terrible disease that led to his death."

With that, 11 mourners left the sanctuary. Gathering in the parking lot, they joined hands and prayed for Winters, Graham explained.

"There were others who wanted to leave, but because the church was so packed, they couldn't leave very easily. The people who did leave were seated near the door," Graham said. "Several people came

up to us in the parking lot and said they wanted to join us, but couldn't. Dr. Lew [Lewis Lefkowitz] of the Vanderbilt AIDS Project said that when we walked out, God walked out with us."

The tone of the funeral service prompted the decision for the Tuesday evening memorial service. "I just couldn't let it end like that," Graham said. "Jeff deserved better."

"His mother fully supported what the preacher said. I didn't see anyone in the family shed any tears. Jeff's mother said it was just punishment for his homosexuality. I was shocked by the way she acted throughout Jeff's illness," Graham

• continued on page 4

I N S I D E

Dare this week

Double jeopardy, part 3:
what it's like to be black and lesbian.
Centerpiece, page 6.



Writing about AIDS:
another story.
Between the Lines, page 10.

Or was that
Richard "Greek-o"?
Loose Lips, page 12.



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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 Un iversity group for lesbians and gay men. Room 313, Joe Morgan University Center, APSU. 4:30pm. Info (615) 648-7107.

Knoxville

Sundays

Metropolitan Community Church
Worship service, 6pm. Corner Weisgarber & Lonas. 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 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.

Fridays

Gay Gratitude Group Alcoholics Anonymous. MCC / Knoxville, 1320 North Central. Noon.
Lesbian Codependents Anonymous At aRK offices. 8pm. Info (615) 933-8393.

Memphis

Mondays

Gay Alternative Hour Radio show, WEVL-FM 90, 6-7pm.

Memphis Gay Coalition Business meeting, 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 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. 3rd and 4th Tuesdays only. 7:30pm. Info (615) 883-4833.

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) No-smoke meeting. 8pm. Info (615) 264-7220.

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.

Tri-Cities

Sundays

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

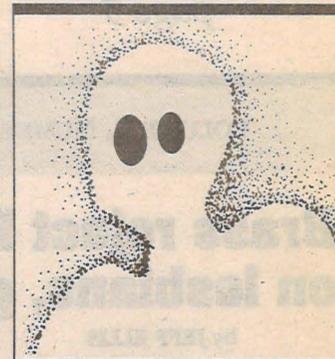
Tuesdays

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 Coalition. For PWAs, ARC, and HIV+ in southwest Virginia, including Bristol, TN. 3rd Thursday only. Info (703) 985-0131.

Big events



Friday, November 3-

Saturday, November 4

Benefit show *Ghosts*. Benefit for Vanderbilt AIDS Project, sponsored by Epiphany Players. At Moorman Auditorium, corner Grand & 20th Ave, Nashville. 8pm. Info (615) 298-5714.

Monday, November 6

Consciousness Raising *The Donahue Show: Homosexual Senior Citizens*. Discussion group. Sponsored by Black & White Men Together/Memphis. Free. 7:30pm. Info (901) 726-1461.

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

Discussion Feminist Book Circle, at Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd., Nashville. Free. 5-7pm.

Benefit For Nashville CARES. At Ace of Clubs, 114 2nd Ave South, Nashville. \$10 advance, \$12 door. 7pm. Info (615) 385-1510.

Sunday, November 12 &

Sunday, November 19

Seminar *Caring for Persons with AIDS in the Home*. Sponsored by aids Response Knoxville (aRK) and the American Red Cross. At Red Cross Bldg, Knoxville. \$15 registration. 12:30-5pm both days. Info (615) 523-AIDS.

Monday, November 13

Read-aloud Lesbian and Gay Read-Aloud, sponsored by Vanderbilt Lambda, at Peabody President's House, corner Edgehill & 18th Ave South, Nashville. Free. 7-9pm. Info (615) 292-5554.

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.

BRIEFS

compiled by MARK LAWRENCE

Staff Writer

Report: 14.5 million could be HIV+ by 2002

INDIANAPOLIS — A new report from the Hudson Institute warns that as many as 14.5 million people in the U.S. could be infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) by 2002 unless more preventative measures are taken.

The 14.5 million figure is based on "worst-case" projections from current government estimates that 1 to 1.5 million people in the US carry HIV. The group said 6 million is probably a more accurate projection.

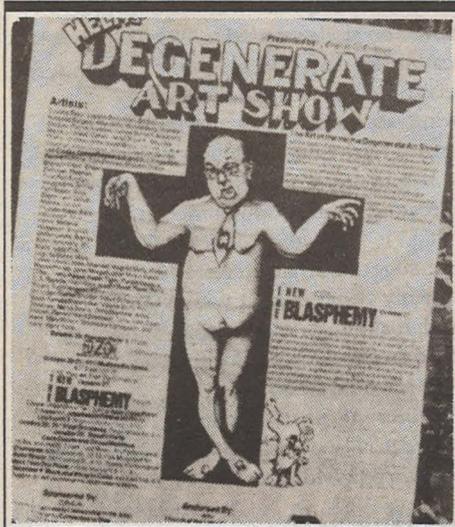
The researchers also called for increased voluntary testing for HIV, early treatment for those who are infected, and educational campaigns that emphasize finding out whether one's partners have also been infected. •

Retailer adds sexual orientation to policy

CHICAGO — Bradner Smith & Company, a paper retail company, has added sexual orientation to its anti-discrimination policy following a complaint filed by a former employee under the Wisconsin Fair Employment Act. The company also agreed to a \$15,000 financial settlement.

Keith LaBrecque, a gay employee who had been transferred to the company's Brookfield, Wisconsin, office, filed the complaint when he was demoted and returned to the Chicago office after admitting to the company's president that he was gay.

"It's heartening to know that employers will be held accountable for their treatment of gay men and lesbians in the workforce, and that our community has the ability to instigate that accountability," LaBrecque said. •



Organizers of the Degenerate Art Show plastered New York City with thousands of these posters lampooning antigay U.S. Senator Jess Helms. — DARE FILE PHOTO

Anti-gay measure OK'd

WASHINGTON — Lesbian and gay organizations have strongly denounced recent Congressional approval of the Armstrong Amendment to the District of Columbia Appropriations Act of 1990. The amendment

allows religiously affiliated educational institutions to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

The amendment, approved by voice vote in the House on Oct. 11, exempts religious educational institutions from the D.C. Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination against lesbians and gay men.

"It takes an amazing arrogance to gut D.C.'s Human Rights Act," said Roger Doughty, executive director of the District's Gay and Lesbian Activist Alliance. "Congress wouldn't dare change any other city's laws, but it feels free to treat D.C. like a colony and use our gay and lesbian community as a punching bag for bigotry." •

Lyphomed to distribute pentamidine free

NEW YORK — Lyphomed, the American manufacturer of pentamidine, said it has not yet worked out plans for its announced free distribution of the drug to indigent AIDS patients.

Although marketing director Cynthia Yost announced last month that the company was "committed to being part of the solution, making this drug to patients who need it," company spokesperson Melissa Marsden told the New York lesbian and gay magazine OUTWEEK that giving any details on the program was "premature."

Lyphomed's price for a single dose of pentamidine is \$99.54. The drug is used to combat pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, the leading cause of death among people with AIDS. •

Exhibit honors Stonewall

NEW YORK — The Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center National Museum of Lesbian and Gay History has scheduled an exhibition of posters and memorabilia to commemorate last June's 20th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion. The exhibition is scheduled for June 1990.

The museum is seeking representation of as many countries, cities, groups, etc. as possible. After the exhibition, as much of the work as is possible will be placed in the newly formed Archive of Lesbian and Gay History at the center. For more information, contact John Copoulos at 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011. •

Planners discuss Nat'l Lesbian Conference

PORTLAND — More than 160 lesbians gathered at Portland State University to make plans for a National Lesbian Conference in April 1991. The three-day session resulted in an interim task force that will manage the planning of the operation until the full steering committee begins working in January.

The meeting was the second such session, following the first national meeting held at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. A third national meeting will convene in Kansas City, Missouri from April 27 to 29, 1990. For more information, contact the conference's interim office at (518) 463-1051. •



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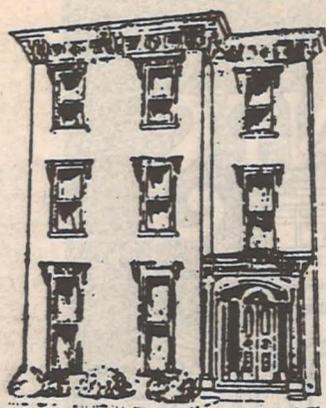
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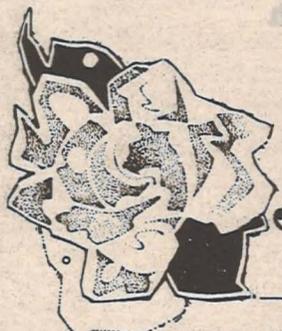
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...reports rejected by Pentagon

• continued from page 1

whose sexual interests deviate from the customary."

"This report is the latest in a long line of studies submitted to the Department of Defense that supports our contention that anti-gay and lesbian policy at the Pentagon is out of touch with reality and right in touch with military bigotry and homophobia," said Sue Hyde, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Privacy Project director and representative to the Military Freedom Project.

In the report, experts analyzed and rejected each of the military's claims in support of its exclusionary policy, and recognized the concept of homophobia as being responsible for the military's resistance to change:

"The unreasoned resistance to learning about or interacting with homosexuals has led to the formulation of the concept of homophobia. Some men experience uneasy feelings when in close proximity to other men who are identified as homosexuals. It is as if such nearness could pollute one's identity."

The second report compares the background records of 166 lesbians and gay men who entered the military and were subsequently discharged because of their sexual orientation.

...Knoxville homophobia seminar

• continued from page 1

TRIANGLE, a horrifying examination of the treatment of and internment in concentration camps of, homosexuals in Nazi Germany and occupied territories during World War II. Another video, produced by a Franciscan

The author of that report, Michael McDaniel, concluded that "the preponderance of the evidence presented indicates that homosexuals show preservice suitability-related adjustment that is as good or better than the average heterosexual."

The 23-page report looked at school conduct records, thinking skills, adjustment to military life and substance abuse. Homosexuals ranked better in every category but substance abuse.

Jim Turner, Defense Department spokesperson, told reporters the first report was rejected because "it was not responsive to the original research request: whether there is any connection between personnel security and sexual orientation."

"The Pentagon brass believed it was hiring a group of 'yes men' to uphold a prejudiced policy," said NGLTF public information director Robert Bray. "It's the classic case of the emperor with no clothes — we see the Defense Department stripped of its honor and integrity and the naked truth of bigotry revealed."

Despite the report's findings, Defense Department spokesperson Turner said, "Homosexuality is not compatible with military life." •

...Creating Change workshops

• continued from page 1

changes in the future. The conference will have 48 workshops conducted by dozens of noted advocates, strategists and specialists.

NGLTF planners say pre-registration figures are much higher than last year's, an overwhelming response to a pre-conference fundraiser. Conference coordinator Steve Snell said the fundraiser is already sold out, "We already have three times more registrants than at this same time last year."

The conference will include keynote speeches by Perry Watkins, Vito Russo and Suzanne Pharr. It will also feature an exhibit area, a video/film/slide presentation area and an information exchange area for groups to swap brochures and other information.

In conjunction with the Creating Change Conference, there will be a pre-Veteran's Day demonstration in front of the White House to protest the military's anti-gay/lesbian policies. Recently these policies were questioned by a Defense Department study that found

priest, dealt with a family's efforts to come to terms with a son's homosexuality.

Gramick and Nugent gave attention to recent National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) statistics, which tabulate acts of violence directed at lesbians and gay men. •

that gay men and lesbians may have stronger qualifications and be more stable than non-gay and lesbian recruits.

The conference will be, Snell said, "a superlative opportunity for grassroots leadership to learn a great deal about the gay and lesbian movement. Participants will acquire practical, hands-on skills needed to be effective in advocating for gay and lesbian civil rights, especially at local and state levels."

During last month's gay and lesbian town meeting in Nashville, there was a discussion about beginning a movement to have the 1991 Creating Change Conference in Tennessee. NGLTF legislative director Peri Jude Radecic, suggested that interested individuals immediately begin talking with NGLTF staffers and making it known that Tennessee would be an excellent site for the conference and why it would be so.

For further information, contact NGLTF at 1517 U Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20009, or call (202) 332-6483. •

...funeral results in walkout

• continued from page 1

added. Winters was the focus of media attention for the seemingly miraculous recoveries he made from a host of maladies. In a NASHVILLE BANNER story last May, his mother (who asked that her name not be used) stressed her love for him and vowed to support him throughout his life.

"But when he had been so sick for so long, she said she wished he'd go ahead and die because he was putting her so far into debt

that she could never recover," Graham contended.

Efforts to contact both Winters' mother and Hunter for comment were unsuccessful.

For Graham, the effects of AIDS on a loved one will remain with him for a long time to come.

"I'm doing much better now," Graham said of dealing with his mate's death. "I thought it would all be over Sunday. Since then, I've been very angry, but now the anger's beginning to subside." •

LOCAL COLOR

compiled from **STAFF REPORTS**

Knoxville

Knoxville Opera Company to present 'Porgy and Bess'

George Gershwin's classic American opera, *PORGY AND BESS*, will be presented in concert form by the Knoxville Opera Company for one performance January 13, at 8:15 p.m. at the Knoxville Civic Auditorium.

Donnie Ray Albert, who won acclaim for his role as Porgy in the Houston Grand Opera's version that ultimately played Broadway in 1977, will reprise that role for the Knoxville performance. Cynthia Clarey will sing the role of Bess for the concert featuring the Knoxville College Choir.

For more information phone (615) 524-0795 or 523-8712. •

GLSU starts newsletter

AWARE, the official publication of the Gay and Lesbian Student Union at the University of Tennessee, debuted with an October issue.

Included in the first issue was a story, "The Homeless: What do they think of gays?" by Pasha Baswami and Ace Woodward. The two toured downtown Knoxville, interviewing homeless people, eliciting remarks which ranged from "Gay people? I love them. I love them. I love them." to "I don't want to deal with homosexuality! It's hurting you and it's hurting me. It's hurting people and family. I think it's wrong. You have so many diseases destroying peoples' lives."

Other stories dealt with "the politics of gay marriage," the final complete display of the NAMES Project National AIDS Memorial Quilt in Washington, D.C., and a calendar of events sponsored by GLSU.

The newsletter will be published monthly, according to GLSU president Tom Jackson.



Donnie Ray Albert will join the Knoxville Opera Company for *PORGY AND BESS*. — DARE FILE PHOTO

Memphis

Gay activist Barrose dies

Peter Barrose, 32, a gay activist and spokesperson for people with AIDS, died Thursday, October 26, after a long battle with AIDS.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Barrose moved to Memphis in 1986 and was active in various organizations. He was a board member of the Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC) and formerly served as vice president of the

Memphis Gay Coalition.

As the unofficial spokesperson for PWAs in Memphis, Barrose was the subject of a cover story in *MEMPHIS* magazine and had appeared on several local television stations.

A memorial service will be held this Sunday, Nov. 5, at 3 p.m. at the Church of the River, 292 Virginia Ave., West, in Memphis. •

BWMT nat'l board in Bluff City

All five officers and ten board members of the National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) were in Memphis last month for their fall meeting.

Delegates from throughout the country attended the meeting, including members from Atlanta, Baltimore and Chicago.

While in Memphis, officers and board members discussed the organization's direction for the coming year and enjoyed a variety of social activities directed by members of the BWMT/Memphis chapter.

BWMT/Memphis will host a consciousness raising session on racial attitudes and consciousness on Monday, Nov. 20, and a Thanksgiving Day potluck for members Thursday, November 23. For more information phone (901) 726-1461. •

Nashville

Activist theatre troupe to perform

Underground Railway Theatre will present *HOME IS WHERE*, an original play evoking the experiences of homeless people, Saturday, Nov. 18 at 8 p.m. at the Hume-Fogg Magnet School, 700 Broadway, in Nashville. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$3 for students and low-income persons.

All proceeds of the production will benefit the Nashville Coalition for the Homeless. •

Vanderbilt Cunnigim Women's Center speaker to discuss abortion

Virginia Trotter Betts, associate professor of nursing at Vanderbilt University, will discuss the recent *WEBSTER V. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICE CASE* and pending legislation and how it will affect women's rights both in Tennessee and in the U.S. in a lecture sponsored by the school's Margaret Cuningim Women's Center Wednesday, Nov. 15.

Betts is first vice president of the American Nurses' Association.

The lecture and discussion will be held from 4-5:30 p.m. in room 204 of Calhoun Hall on the Vandy campus. •

Tri-Cities

Community Fund gives TAP grant

Tri-Cities AIDS Project (TAP) was the recipient of a \$2,000 grant for general operating expenses from the Appalachian Community Fund.

The grant will cover printing and postage of the organization's newsletter, according to a TAP spokesperson. TAP's new board of directors will be elected during a meeting next Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 6:30 p.m.

TAP offices are located at 100 Spring Street, Suite 307, in Johnson City. •

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and where will
you be
When they come?*

— Pat Parker

T

he phenomenon, as author and essayist Audre Lorde calls it, of the triple outsider — black, female and lesbian — is one that's difficult to explore. And, perhaps, even more difficult to comprehend.

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

But how does one deal with being a triple outsider in the new South?

Jean (who spoke only on condition her last name not be used) is a 40-year-old black lesbian who has lived in Nashville all of her life.

"It's much harder for black lesbians and gay men to accept their homosexuality than white people simply because of society's prejudices," Jean says. "It's very hard to be both black and gay. That's why blacks are more closeted and try harder, I think, to live a 'straight' lifestyle."

Jean doesn't consider herself an "out" lesbian, her true nature known only to close friends and a few family members.

"Society has made me feel as if I have three strikes against me," she says. "It's only been in this past year that I have finally accepted myself. For a long time, I didn't want to believe I was this way because I felt

I wouldn't stand a chance at all."

Despite her long battles with self-acceptance, the realization of her sexual orientation — that it did indeed have a name — came rather naturally for Jean.

"It was just something I always knew from the very beginning, when I was about eight years old, rolling down the hills with my best girlfriends, that I was attracted to girls and not boys. It was just very clear to me. I had absolutely no doubt in my mind. But it scared me and I hoped and prayed that the feelings would go away," she says. "I thought that if I ever cared for a guy that my feelings for women would go away. And I did care for a guy once. I ended up getting pregnant by him and later marrying him. I was 18 at the time. Of course, I realized later that I was not in love with him and it ended up not working out."

Because she had always been athletically-inclined, Jean became involved as a teenager in a softball league. Many of the other players were black lesbians, giving her an opportunity to meet other women like herself. However, still struggling with her feelings, she was reluctant to give those feelings a name.

"COMING OUT" was something that just never occurred to me because it was something that none of my friends had done. We all knew about each other, that we were all involved in relationships with women, but it was something that was just never talked about," she says.

"It was my upbringing that caused me to fight 'coming out' for so long. Black families are very reli-

P I E C E

: black and gay



BLACK & GAY

gious-oriented. I grew up hearing preachers preach that homosexuality was a sin. My family was members of the Church of Christ and that church does nothing but tell you that all gay people are going straight to hell."

DOES JEAN'S family know she's a lesbian?

"Yes, my mother knows, but we never talk about it. She has let me know on occasion that she doesn't like it but she knows there's nothing she can do about it. Most of my family knows. I have a grown daughter and I think she knows. But my family may be a little different than most in that I have three sisters, two of whom are also lesbians. So that's three out of four girls in my family who have to deal with homosexuality.

"My mother was even with a woman once, but that was years ago when she used to drink. At home, I used to have girls spend the night with me and everything during that time. Back then it was no big deal. But when she stopped drinking, she started Bible-thumping and then it wasn't okay anymore," Jean remembers.

Do Jean's co-workers know of her sexual orientation?

"No! I work in the accounting department of a very large company here in Nashville. I've been there for 16 years. My company is very prejudiced. To them, being a woman is bad enough, and being black is a bit worse. But being gay is the worst thing you could possibly be. We have one gay man at work who is out and he catches hell from everybody. I could never come out at work because I'd like to advance

in my company. Maybe if I was younger, like 18, I might be able to handle that kind of pressure but I'm 40 now and for me it just wouldn't be worth the hassle."

Jean says that Nashville's black gay and lesbian community is not formally organized. She points out, however, that while blacks may not be "members" of any formal organizations or in attendance at predominantly white events or establishments, that doesn't mean they don't exist and that they're not getting together.

Earlier in this series, Phil, a black gay man, said there still exists some animosity within the gay male community in regard to interracial dating and relationships. How do lesbians deal with the issue?

"Unlike gay men, I really don't think lesbians, black or white, are bothered too much by interracial dating. It doesn't seem to be a big concern or issue. Overall, I'd say that interracial relationships are probably more acceptable in the gay community than they are in the straight community," Jean says. "Personally, I've never experienced any problems or heard any negative comments when I've dated a white woman, although it has been a few years since I've dated one."

"I think the first thing people will look at, if I was seen dating a white woman, would not be that she's white and that I'm black, but that we're two women dating to begin with. Being an interracial couple wouldn't bother them as much as being a lesbian couple would." •

Next week: Jean discusses the role of lesbians in the black community.



BLACK & GAY



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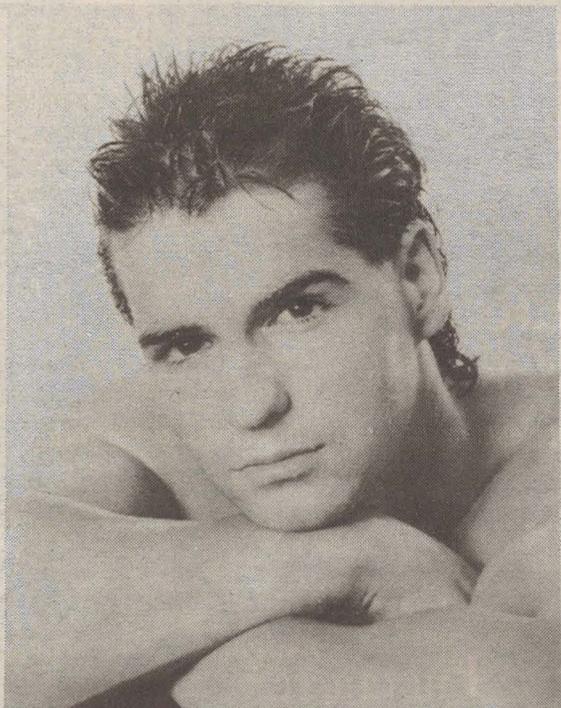
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CURTAINS

Giving the Bell witch her due

OUR FAMILY TROUBLE: THE LEGEND OF THE BELL WITCH. By Audrey Campbell. Directed by Dennis Ewing. Actor's Playhouse of Nashville. Through November 4.

reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**

Editor

DESPITE A TRULY CHILLING prologue that promises a frightening evening, the Actor's Playhouse production of **OUR FAMILY TROUBLE: THE LEGEND OF THE BELL WITCH** just isn't very scary.

Yet it is, I'm afraid, unintentionally funny, an evening of fluffed lines and miscues that may be most horrifying because of the fact that it's presented by Actor's Playhouse, probably Nashville's most innovative theatre company.

But laughable dialogue and uneven performances probably won't keep the audiences away from this show. Instead, they should fairly flock to the theatre for this warmed-over tale of a Tennessee legend — the company's Halloween offering given a new production after previous seasons' box office success.

And after this production, I wouldn't be surprised if the Bell Witch herself didn't descend upon the Actor's Playhouse, seeking to exact revenge for the disservice done her reputation.

Every middle Tennessean worth her or his salt has, at one time or another, heard the story of the Bell Witch (although her home-stead seems to float throughout the midstate, depending on who's telling the story; I remember people in college going to Williamson and Maury counties hoping for chance encounters with her) and the terror she inflicted on the Bell family.

According to this show, the Bell family of Robertson County were terrorized because

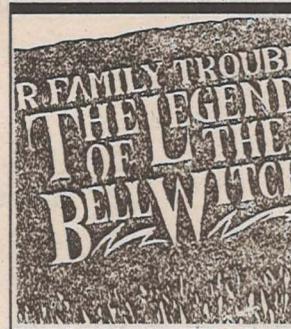
their home happened to be on some ancient ritual grounds used by witches and warlocks. Betsy Bell, the fetching teenaged daughter, and her dashing beau, Joshua Gardner, have unsuspectingly recovered a tooth lost by the head witch during one of those ritual games of keep-away (yeah, sure). The witch, known as "Kate" to the Bells and "Black Dog" to her cronies then haunts the Bells' home, making life for them rather uncomfortable, to say the least.

Of course, there's the obligatory exorcism by the charlatan Methodist preacher, creaking sounds and creepy lighting techniques, but unfortunately they can't save the show or maintain the level of

fright established in prologue.

Performances range from very good (Greg Welsch and Karen Mundy are hilarious as the Methodist preacher and neighborhood wacko, respectively) to pretty good (Peggy Halpern as Luce Bell and Paul Marshall [who has great hair] as Joshua Gardner) to just plain dreadful (we won't mention any names, but you know who you are).

Actually, the sound and lighting design are pretty good. But I liked the cover art for the program better than anything else in this slipshod production that's unworthy of bearing the phrase, "Actor's Playhouse of Nashville presents..." While I'm bitching, the audience the night I saw the show deserves to die for its constant movement, beer-drinking and complete disregard for basic theatre etiquette. •



Wait 'til it's over

WAIT UNTIL DARK. By Frederick Knott. Directed by Mike Norman. Circle Players. At TPAC's Johnson Theatre. Through Nov. 19.

reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**

Editor

BE FOREWARNED: during the final moments of **WAIT UNTIL DARK**, your heart will be in your mouth and you'll be embarrassed that the people seated around you were privy to your audible gasp, stifled scream or nervous laughter. That's just how effective the climactic scene of the murder mystery is.

Unfortunately, it's a case of too little, too late. The two hours leading up to that scene are not menacing or threatening enough to prepare you for those few horrifying moments. Instead, the rest of the play progresses at a pleasantly melodramatic pace, the plot becoming nothing more than a series of little inconveniences disturbing the ever-smiling, always perky heroine.

The plot of Knott's play centers on the age-old conflict of good versus evil. Good is represented by Susy Hendrix (Wesley Paine), the

plucky heroine whose blindness seems to make her all the more determined to outwit the bad guys. Evil is personified by Harry Roat Jr. (James Brantley), who, along with two somewhat likable, not altogether bad henchmen (Tony McAlister and Robert Sommer), terrorizes Susy with a battle of wits in her New York apartment.

Roat and his cohorts are trying to locate a musical doll that was given to Susy's photographer husband, Sam, by a mysterious woman in the Montreal airport. We learn that Roat murdered the woman because she didn't know where the doll was.

The doll, it seems, is filled with \$1 million worth of heroin. Roat promises to go to any lengths to retrieve the doll. Only no one seems to know where the doll is.

• continued on page 9



C U R T A I N S

A classic romance

ROMEO AND JULIET. By William Shakespeare. Directed by David Shookhoff. Tennessee Repertory Theatre. At TPAC's Polk Theatre. Through November 12.
reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**
Editor

SHAKESPEARE'S centuries-old romance of **ROMEO AND JULIET** is brought to the Nashville stage in a richly elegant production mounted by Tennessee Repertory Theatre (TRT).

Presented in classic style, **ROMEO AND JULIET** is the latest in a series of TRT adaptations of Shakespeare's works. After an uproarious updating of **THE TAMING OF THE SHREW** last season, this year's lushly romantic production is true to the timeless script, performed by actors ideally suited to their roles.

Perhaps most astonishing is Denice Hicks' lovely and enigmatic Juliet, performed with just the right amount of teen-aged abandon and romantic fervor. Hicks' performance is surprising — not because of her enormous dramatic range — but because heretofore we've seen her primarily in light-hearted ingenue roles. With Juliet, she confidently takes her place among the best actresses on Nashville stages.

Hicks' Juliet is at first a startled adolescent, evolving into an engaging coquette who ultimately becomes a Shakespearian icon.

Paired with Hicks is New Yorker Aloysius Gigl as Romeo, whose lusty ardor and youthful exuberance provides the perfect counterpoint to Juliet's innocence. Handsome and charming, Gigl wins the heart of the audience as he woos Juliet.

The successful pairing of Hicks and Gigl is essential to this winning production. The story of **ROMEO AND JULIET** is known to virtually everyone, the story's appeal timeless. The two young lovers and their feuding families, the Montagues and the Capulets, are among literature's best known characters.

By selecting a theatrical classic for its season, TRT may have taken a bigger chance

than first assumed. With others cast in the leads, the production could well have been a dismal failure.

Supporting roles were well cast with a mix of local and regional actors. As Tybalt (the closest thing Shakespeare has to a mustache-twirling villain), Mark Cabus is appropriately dastardly and dashing, taking a sharp turn from his usually sweet and likable characters.

John Hickock came as close as anyone to stealing the stage from the two leads with his ribald Mercutio, played here as a spoiled child and with a shock of flaming red hair adding to his flamboyance.

As Friar Lawrence, Warren Hammack seemed initially to be too involved with his role, as if he were simply reciting Shakespeare's lines. But as the action progressed, he created a memorable character.

Yet no character could be more memorable than that of the Nurse, played here with wit and wisdom by Jen Jones. A seasoned performer, Jones proved her mettle with her deft portrayal.

In other roles, David Compton (Benvolio), Evans Donnell (Lord Capulet) and Mikael Byrd (Paris) were effective, as was Pamela White as Lady Capulet (although one of her exits from Juliet's bedchamber was horrible).

BUT THE REAL STAR of director David Shookhoff's well-paced production is Bennet Averyt's exquisite set: a stuccoed, tile-roofed masterpiece that provides the setting for each of the play's many scenes in grand style. Cindy Russell's costumes are wonderful evocations of late-16th century clothes and are responsible, in large part, for establishing the two feuding families. •



... 'til it's over

• continued from page 8

Given its due, **WAIT UNTIL DARK** can be an absorbing, tension-packed evening of theatre mystery at its best. But the performances in this production are so uneven that the only suspense created comes far too late.

Paine is a very natural, very believable Susy and her performance is, by far, the best of the lot. A seasoned actor, she's obviously comfortable with her character and is quite effective in the role of the blind woman who refuses to be victimized.

Brantley, although a competent actor, delivers a performance that seems much too restrained — there's not enough of the psychopath in his eyes — until the play's climax. Then, and only then it seems, he pulls out all the stops and shows just how evil Roat is.

As Roat's henchmen, McAlister and Sommer deliver less than adequate performances,

due mainly to the fact they are woefully miscast in their roles. They just aren't believable as ex-cons. Airline ticket agents? Maybe. Ex-cons? No way.

In the role of Gloria, the nine-year-old who lives upstairs from Susy and Sam, Merilee Hornung gives a winning performance. My only beef is a lack of attention to detail: obviously, she's older than Gloria's character, so why weren't the lines about her age changed? She doesn't look like any nine-year-old I've ever seen.

But the worst part of the evening is the heavy-footed exits by Brantley, McAlister and Sommer. In several scenes when Susy is supposed to be aware of only one person in the room (when actually there are three), the actors sound the Fat Boys doing aerobics up the stairs. I just don't believe that's how Knott envisioned it. •



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BETWEEN THE LINES

On covering AIDS

by **JEFF ELLIS**
Editor

I HATE WRITING about AIDS.

Although some people who have heard me make that statement may have been put off by that statement, it's probably because they don't understand what I mean.

You see, when you write for a lesbian and gay newspaper, writing about AIDS is a fact of life. By that same token, the subject takes on a greater importance: you have a personal investment in the subject — you're writing about friends, relatives and loved ones in addition to writing about the ravages of disease.

All too often, the people you write a feature or new story about are the same people about whom you write obituaries.

Sometimes, you're faced with an ethical dilemma: Will you say someone died of AIDS despite her or his final wishes that no one know?

As a journalist dedicated to reporting the truth, the answer is simple. Of course you'll write the facts of the person's death.

But as a friend, the answer is more complex. This was a friend, you must honor a friend's wishes.

It's a conundrum we hate to face.

But even more difficult is accepting the death of someone you talked to only days earlier. Someone who was so full of life the last time you saw them that you thought they'd live forever.

Last May, I met Jeff Winters for the first time. He told me the story of his miraculous recoveries from a series of ailments that had afflicted him since he was diagnosed as having AIDS three years ago.

"I'm not saying I'm cured yet," he told me. "But I could be in remission for quite a while."

My most vivid memory of that meeting isn't of his harrowing war stories, but instead of the fact he ordered a pizza for us to share. In order to pay for that pizza, he was busily counting out pennies to give the Domino's driver. It broke my heart and I only had \$3 and some change on me to help out on the cost of the pizza.

It helped, I guess, but I was haunted by that scene as I drove away.

"You're covering this as a reporter. Don't get involved," I thought.

A few weeks later, I saw Jeff again. It was at the 1989 Lesbian and Gay Pride Rally in Nashville's Centennial Park. I was onstage, helping to emcee the rally, when I saw him approach the stage.

We greeted each other as friends and he told me things were going well for him. He seemed as determined to defeat AIDS as anyone could possibly be.

Unfortunately, Jeff was not strong enough to win his last battle.

But in his death, we remember his life, his unflinching optimism, his determination and his pride in who he was.

He will be missed. By his lover, by his friends and by a reporter who shared a pizza with him.

And that's why I hate writing about AIDS. •

Dare

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

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

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SOAPBOX

Be political, not polite

by **JIM ROCHE**
Contributing Writer

RECENTLY, I'VE NOTICED a flurry of articles about a split within our community.

It's a split between those who are in favor of confrontational political tactics (i.e., ACT UP) and those who are in favor of using a more restrained mainstream approach when addressing lesbian and gay issues. It would seem that these groups have the same goals; it's just that they want to use different tactics to reach them.

This dichotomy is especially noticeable in stories I read from smaller cities across the country, especially in communities that don't have enough room for more than one lesbian and gay group.

Well, surprise! This division of philosophy and tactics is nothing new for our community. As we celebrated the 20th anniversary of Stonewall earlier this year, we should have taken note that at the very beginning of the lesbian and gay rights movement in this country, the same conflicts and divisions were present.

When the police raided the Stonewall Inn, on New York's Christopher Street, on June 28, 1969, they expected that it would be just another routine set of arrests of drag queens and bar employees.

Instead, for the first time, they were met with resistance. A crowd of people forming across the street began to yell, "Pigs!" Then they began throwing bottles. The police barricaded themselves in the bar. Trash cans were set on fire and thrown into the bar. The police were ready to open fire on the crowd when reinforcements arrived and broke up the riot.

For the next several nights, there were more riots and community meetings throughout the Village. Prior to these riots and meetings there were several respectable lesbian and gay groups dating back through the '60s and '50s.

They put an emphasis on respectability, but soon they had to make way for more radical groups like the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activists Alliance.

Others, working in politically respectable

organizations like NOW (which forced Rita Mae Brown and other lesbians to resign their memberships) had to wait for recognition of lesbian and gay issues as legitimate concerns of such groups.

The 20th anniversary of Stonewall that we celebrated this year was a celebration of our more radical heritage. It was a celebration of a revolution that was started by what many members of the mainstream political establishment groups would consider fringe members of our community. People they would ask not to be "too public, too out of the closet."

It was a revolution started by a bunch of cross-dressing, bag carrying, high heeled boys...let's never forget that!

They felt themselves to be abused and powerless, and did what the Gay Liberation Front, the Gay Activists Alliance and ACT UP today would tell you to do when you are powerless — seize power!

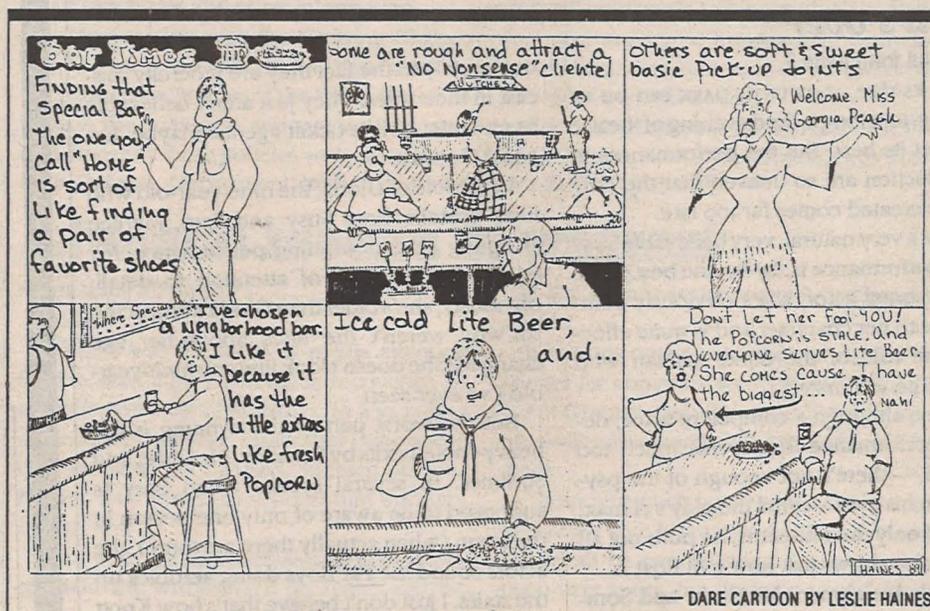
At a lesbian and gay political meeting I attended recently, members heard a speaker offer essentially this advice: Don't go too fast, take it slow. Don't ask for too much too soon. Progress is made through cooperation, not confrontation.

Apparently this was a speaker who really didn't understand how the civil rights movement worked in this country. Laws were passed that said you will treat people justly. When that didn't happen, troops were sent in to enforce those laws. Civil rights would never have progressed if the movement's foot soldiers worried about being polite, quiet and acceptable.

IN THAT SPIRIT, I don't want to change peoples' minds, I want to change the law and their behavior.

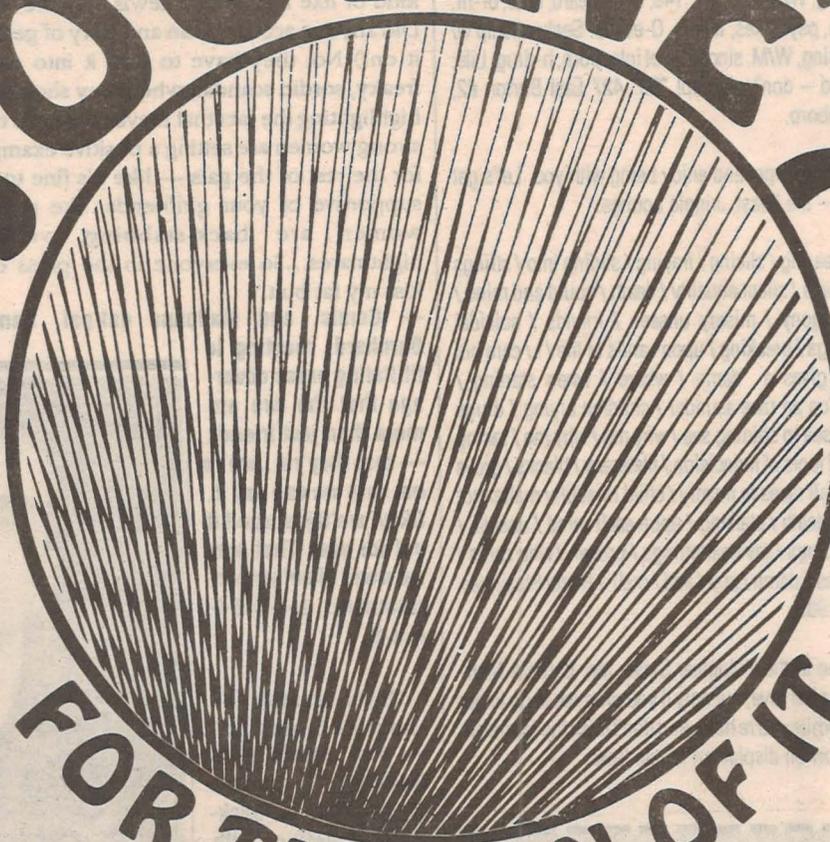
To me, warning lesbian and gay members of our community not to go too fast, to be cooperative and non-confrontational, puts them in the same situation that judges put women who have been raped when they ask, "How short was that dress?"

Injustice calls for indignant words. And nothing less! •



— DARE CARTOON BY LESLIE HAINES

JOURNEY



FOR THE FUN OF IT

The wait is almost over!

Our grand opening date will be announced in next week's Dare.

P.S. We are as anxious as you are...

