

Love and marriage.  
And domestic partnerships?  
Soapbox, page 14.

# Dare

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 47

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

NOVEMBER 24 - 30, 1989

## Report backs l/g military

by JACKI MOSS  
Staff Writer

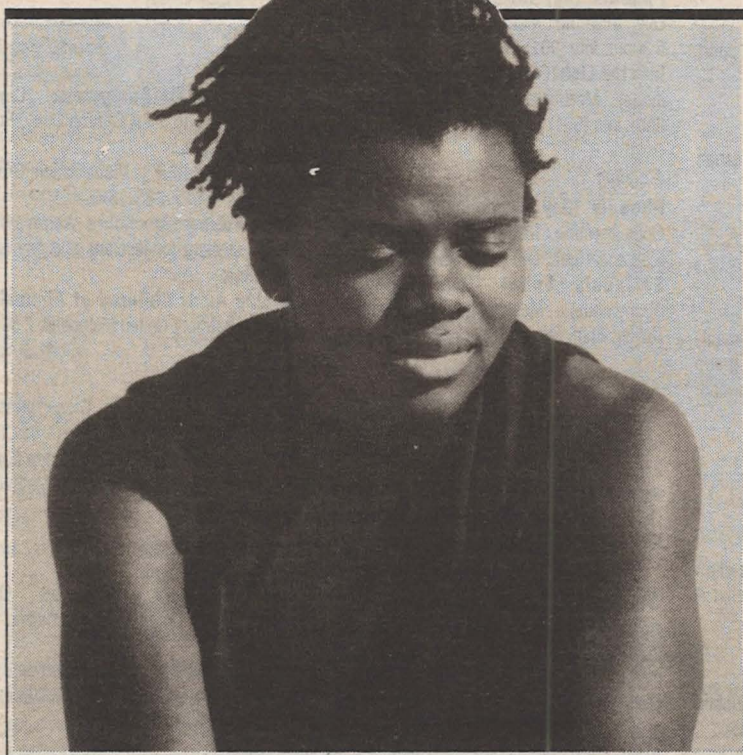
Although the report on gay men and lesbians in the military was released earlier this month, it is interesting to note some of the more specific information contained in the document that was commissioned and then rejected by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD).

According to the report's preface, "The Defense Personnel Security Research and Education Center (PERSEREC) performs research and analyses in support of DoD's personnel security programs. One of its top priority projects, approved by the Office of Security and Defense (OSD), is to validate existing criteria for personnel security clearance determinations and to develop more objective, uniform and valid adjudication standards, e.g., clarify relationships between risk and various personal characteristics."

It also said that, "this study was initiated to obtain the broadest range of scientific input in the formulation and revision of agency policy...the knowledge and insight derived from an accumulation of rigorous studies and analyses will contribute to the development of appropriate policy."

Some other excerpts from the study:

- "Given continuing manpower needs in the armed forces and also social pressures to remove traditional barriers that exclude homosexual men and women from military service, it is timely to review current perspectives on homosexuality."



**Tracy Chapman**, who got her start as a folk singer performing at various women's music festivals around the country has achieved what many dream of: stardom in the lucrative pop music field. With songs such as "Fast Car," Chapman has affirmed her place in American music. For more on the music of the '80s, see "eightysomething" on page 8. — DARE FILE PHOTO

- "It is common practice to employ the concept of sexual preference in discussions of same-gender and opposite-gender issues. The use of 'preference' is misleading except for persons who are bisexual, that is those to whom either gender is acceptable as a sex partner. For most other cases, the gender choice of a sex partner is not a matter of 'preference.' The desired gender of the sex partner is fixed or at least firmly

• continued on page 4

## Chattanooga organizes New Gay & Lesbian Alliance forms

by JEFF ELLIS  
Editor

Seeking to effect a change in the quality of life and to challenge the mainstream community's perceptions of homosexuals, a group of lesbian and gay activists met in Chattanooga last Friday night to form the nucleus of a new organization.

Calling themselves the Chattanooga Gay and Lesbian Alliance, the dozen women and men met to discuss the pros and cons of organizing and to plan a recruiting drive for new members.

"I think it's time we let Chattanooga know we're here," said Alliance chair Andrew Gilfoil. "People in Chattanooga have waited long enough. I really think it's time to do something."

Included in their plan of action is a December 16 holiday gala which will serve as a introduction of the Alliance to new members and to collect toys for the Chattanooga Fire Department's "Toys for Tots" campaign. A committee was formed to plan the event and to solicit donations from lesbian- and gay-affirmative businesses throughout southeastern Tennessee.

Much of the discussion at last Friday's meeting centered on establishing a foothold in Chattanooga's lesbian and gay community. At present, there is a congregation of

Metropolitan Community Church (a denomination that is primarily lesbian and gay), a lesbian and gay recovery community, other less-formal groups and several bars and nightclubs.

The Alliance sees its goal, according to organizers, as providing a political voice for the city's lesbian/gay community as well as a means of affecting social change. Plans call for an aggressive public relations campaign to "validate our community," they said.

Another planning meeting will be held Saturday, November 25, at the Shoney's/Golden Gateway at 7 p.m. Information is available by phoning (615) 867-5911.

Organization of the Chattanooga group follows community groups in Memphis, Knoxville, Nashville and the Tri-Cities. The Memphis Gay Alliance was formed in 1979, as was Nashville's Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights (reorganized as Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance [T-GALA] in 1987). Recently, members of Knoxville Ten Percent (KTP), organized earlier in this decade, voted to disband their group due to a lack of interest, and attempts to contact representatives of East Tennessee Alternative Lifestyles (et al) were unsuccessful at press time.

Student groups have made a

• continued on page 4

## San Francisco drops domestic partners law Supporters view vote as temporary setback, vow return

by JEFF ELLIS  
Editor

The defeat by voters of San Francisco's landmark domestic partners legislation, approved by the city's Board of Supervisors last May but later put on the ballot for a November referendum, does not mean that supporters of the law have accepted defeat.

Instead, according to Board of Supervisors President Harry Britt, proponents of the measure are "alive and well" and consider the defeat at the polls only "a setback."

Members of the Board of Supervisors last May approved "domestic partnership" legislation recognizing homosexual and unmarried

heterosexual couples as families. The ordinance defines domestic partners as "two people who have chosen to share one another's lives in an intimate and committed relationship of mutual caring."

The law's intent was to extend to qualifying domestic partners some of the rights usually reserved for married heterosexual couples, including health benefits, property and life insurance, bereavement leave, and annuity and pension rights.

Known as "Proposition S" on the November 7 ballot, if approved the measure would have made San Francisco the first city in the nation to formally recognize the existence

of gay and lesbian relationships by providing domestic partnership registration by city government.

"Virtually every poll taken prior to the election indicated widespread support," Britt said. "The legislation was unanimously passed by the Board of Supervisors and signed by the Mayor [Art Agnos], and endorsed by every major newspaper in the city. Despite the election results, we are confident that the vast majority of San Franciscans welcome gay men and lesbians as part of the family."

Some experts say that to define "family" is now an impossible task, while others fear that recognition of

• continued on page 4

## I N S I D E Dare this week

The last of  
a six part series:  
**Black & Gay**, page 6.



**Remembering the heroes  
and the victims of the '80s.  
Retrospective**, page 10.

**Covering the waterfront:  
More from Sandra Bernhard.  
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**  
**OSGL** Austin Peay State University Organization for Support of Gays & Lesbians, group for lesbians and gay men. Rm 4, Archwood, APSU. 4pm. 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.  
**Al-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) Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

#### 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



**CHATTANOOGA**  
**GAY & LESBIAN**  
**ALLIANCE**

#### Saturday, November 25

**Organizational Meeting** Of new Chattanooga Gay and Lesbian Alliance. At Shoney's Golden Gateway, Chattanooga. 7pm. Free. Info (615) 867-5911.

#### Monday, November 27

**Planning meeting** For Pride '90 celebration. At 1523-B Ashwood Ave, Nashville. Info (615) 297-4653.

#### Thursday, November 30

**Film** CRUISING. Discussion follows. Sponsored by Vanderbilt Lambda, at Heard Library Classroom, 21st Ave South, Nashville. \$1 donation. 8pm. Info (615) 292-5554.

#### Friday, December 1

**WORLD AIDS DAY**  
**Saturday, December 2**  
**Craft Show** Women artisans, sponsored by Nashville Women's Alliance, at Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. Free admission. 2-6pm. Info (615) 269-9670.

#### Sunday, December 3

**Benefit** For Hospice House for AIDS. At 5 Points Depot, 103 S 11th St, Nashville. \$5. Shows 9:30pm, 11pm. Info (615) 228-6988.

#### Tuesday, December 5

**Holiday Party** Vanderbilt Lambda Association. A Peabody President's House, Edgemoor & 18th Av South, Nashville. 7-9pm.

#### Saturday, December 9

**Christmas Party** Gay and Lesbian Student Union, University of Tennessee/Knoxville. 8pm. Info (615) 595-8686.

#### Saturday, December 16

**Benefit** The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus. Benefits Gay Cable Network/Nashville. At War Memorial Auditorium, Nashville. Tickets \$10, \$13 advance, \$12, \$15 at door. 7pm. Info (615) 254-8250.  
**Benefit** Chattanooga Gay and Lesbian Alliance. Chattanooga. 7pm. Donation. Please bring toy for holiday distribution by Chattanooga Fire Dept. Info (615) 867-5911.

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.



# CROSS COUNTRY

compiled by **MARK LAWRENCE**  
Staff Writer

## Hampton dead at 87

NEW YORK — Black lesbian activist Mabel Hampton, one of the founders of the Lesbian Herstory Archives, died of pneumonia at New York's St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital on October 26 at the age of 87.

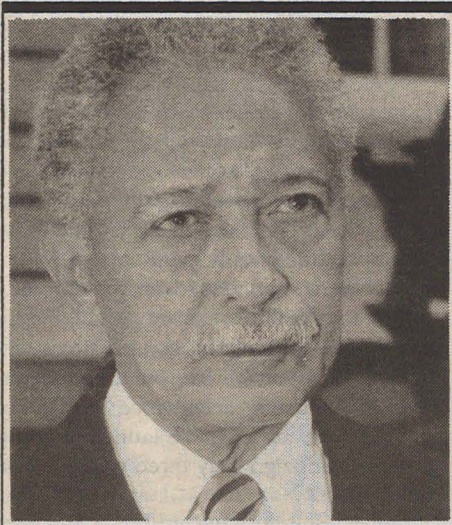
Hampton played a pioneering role in the battle for civil rights, women's and gay liberation, and was honored by many national black, lesbian and gay organizations for her work. In the past decade, she appeared in several film and television productions documenting her involvement in the Harlem Renaissance and in lesbian/gay life prior to Stonewall. Hampton was born in Winston-Salem, N.C., in 1902. •

## Hacker address P-FLAG meet

NOVI, Mich. — Sylvia S. Hacker, associate professor at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, was the keynote speaker at the Eighth International Convention of the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Speaking on the importance of regarding sexuality as "normal and good," Hacker told an audience of 300 at the Novi Hilton, "Sexuality is welded to one's personality," and includes "holding hands, kissing," and other forms of physical contact besides intercourse.

The convention's theme was "Listening, Learning, Loving," and included 22 workshops and the annual report of P-FLAG President Paulette Goodman. A special Federation Award was presented to Cleve Jones, executive director of the NAMES Project Foundation, which coordinates the expansion, touring and display of the AIDS quilt. •



**David Dinkins**, New York City's newly-elected mayor, joined Holocaust scholar Elie Wiesel and former Human Rights Campaign Fund Board chair Vivian Shapiro at HRCF's 8th annual dinner. — DARE FILE PHOTO

## HRCF honors Weisel

NEW YORK — Holocaust scholar Elie Weisel received the Human Rights Campaign Fund's Humanitarian of the Year award at the group's eighth annual dinner.

"Those who hate you, hate me," said the Nobel Peace Prize winner. "Bigots do not stop

at classes, at races, or at lesbians and gays." In his speech, he recounted the shared experience of the Jewish and gay communities in Nazi death camps.

Other speakers at the meeting included David Dinkins, then a candidate for mayor of New York City, and former HRCF Board Chair Vivian Shapiro. •

## NGRA plans expansion

SAN FRANCISCO — The Board of Directors of National Gay Rights Advocates approved on Nov. 11 a plan for nationwide expansion of the law firm's litigation and development projects, including the opening of Washington, D.C., office.

"This is the beginning of a new era," said Richard White, newly elected chair of the NGRA Board. "We are putting the emphasis on 'national' in National Gay Rights Advocates." A national advisory council was approved to act as a forum for national leaders to assist in planning the group's agenda.

The Board committed to opening a branch in the nation's capital as soon as funds are available. The San Francisco office will continue to operate at full strength and most of the executive officers of the organization will remain headquartered in Los Angeles. •

## Episcopals elect gay man

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Bruce Colburn has become the first openly gay man to be elected as a deputy to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, the church's highest policymaking body.

Colburn, who was elected to represent the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, is chair of the Diocesan Homophile Commission and immediate past Northeast Regional Vice President of Integrity, the national lesbian and gay ministry of the Episcopal Church.

"I think my election represents the feeling of the Diocese of Rochester that all gay men and lesbians are indeed children of god and have a place in our church," said Colburn. The next General Convention will be held in Phoenix, Ariz., in July 1991. •

## Judge dismisses sailor Steffan's suit

NEW YORK — Judge Oliver Gasch dismissed the the suit by Joseph Steffan, a midshipman who was forced to leave the Naval Academy after saying he was gay. At a Nov. 6 hearing, Gasch ruled that Steffan could not go forward with his suit unless he answered questions about whether or not he had engaged in homosexual conduct before and after being discharged from the Academy.

Steffan had refused to answer the questions on the advice of his attorneys, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. Lambda argued that such questions were irrelevant because Steffan had not been accused of homosexual conduct, only of admitting to being gay.

"We will appeal the dismissal," said Sandy Lowe, a Lambda attorney. "Sexual conduct has never been an issue in this case, and the Judge's dismissal of the entire suit is unfair and legally improper." •

## Seeing is believing.



*Dare* is looking for photographers to help document the lives of lesbian and gay Tennesseans. We're not necessarily looking for pros, just for reliable people with cameras.

If you're in Chattanooga, Clarksville, Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville, the Tri-Cities or just about anywhere else in the state, we'd like to hear from you about joining us to occasionally supply photos of events and people in your neck of the woods. And, of course, we're always looking for more writers. Get in touch with us, and see what we mean.

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Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly

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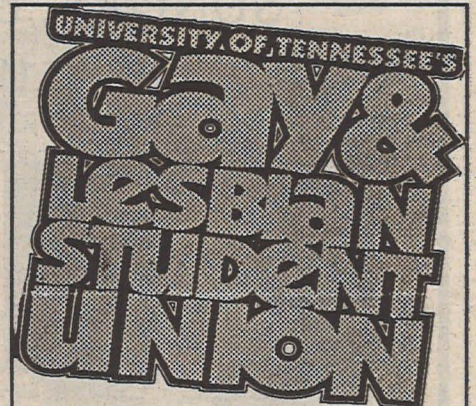
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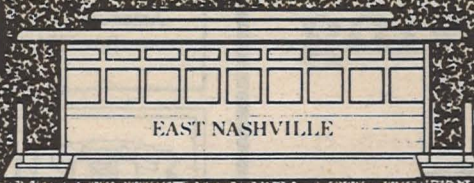


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# 5 POINTS



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## ...Chattanooga organizes

• continued from page 1

dramatic comeback following a 1980 Federal Court ruling that said lesbian/gay student organizations could not be banned on state campuses. That decision followed a much-publicized battle between students at Clarksville's Austin Peay State University and

the Tennessee Board of Regents. Currently, there are lesbian/gay student groups at the University of Tennessee/Knoxville, Austin Peay State University, Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro and at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. A group at Memphis State University is no longer active. •

## ...rejected Pentagon les/gay report

• continued from page 1

conditioned by biological preparation and habits laid down early in life. Embryological events and the subsequent reinforcement history of gender-related acts create a condition that might be better labeled sexual orientation or sexual status."

• "It is difficult not to conclude that a large number of undetected homosexual men and women are performing their military roles satisfactorily and that their sexual conduct does not come to the attention of their commanders."

• "The order to integrate blacks [into the military] was first met with stout resistance by traditionalists in the military establishment. Dire consequences were predicted for maintaining discipline, building group morale, and achieving military organizational goals. None of these predictions of doom has come true. Social science specialists helped develop programs for combatting racial discrimination, so that now the military services are leaders in providing equal opportunity for black men and women. It would be wise to consider applying the experience of the past 40 years to the integration of homosexuals."

• "...90% of male homosexuals display no overt behavioral stigmata. In the interest of survival, practiced impression management makes it possible to conceal one's sexual preference whether in military or civilian settings."

• "The concept that homosexuals pose a security risk is unsupported by any factual data. Homosexuals are no more a security risk, and many causes are much less of a security risk, than alcoholics and those people with marked feelings of inferiority who must brag of their knowledge of secret information and disclose it to gain stature. Promiscuous heterosexual activity also provides serious security implications. Some intelligence officers consider a senior officer having illicit sexual heterosexual relations with the wife of a junior officer or [of an] enlisted man is much more of a security risk than the ordinary homosexual...the number of cases of blackmail as a result of homosexuals is negligible. No factual data exist to support the contention that homosexuals are a greater risk than heterosexuals."

• "Since AIDS is not contagious in the course of normal occupational and recreational activity, an argument could be made that HIV-positivity is not a fair criterion for rejection [for military service]."

• In conclusion, the report stated, "The lessons of history tell us that the legitimacy of our behaviors, customs, and laws is not permanently resistant to change. Custom and law change with the times, sometimes with amazing rapidity. The military cannot indefinitely isolate itself from the changes occurring in the wider society, of which it is an integral part." •

## ...voters reject SF domestic partners

• continued from page 1

domestic partnerships will undermine the heterosexual nuclear unit.

Traditionally, the concept of family has been a mother and father living with their children under 18, but with the proliferation of single parent families and unmarried adults, the definition may have become obsolete, experts say.

U.S. Census figures may support those claims: fewer than 27% of the nation's 91 million households in 1988 fit the traditional family model. During that same year, the Census bureau recorded 1.6 million same-sex couples living together (up from 1.3 million in 1970).

Although Census officials still exclude most non-traditional family models from the bureau's records, former senior demographer Paul Glick predicts a major shift in federal legal definition of family sometime after the turn of the century.

Efforts in San Francisco are only a part of a national trend toward the recognition of non-traditional family units.

In July, the New York State Court of Appeals held that a long-term, live-in gay couple may be considered a family under the state's rent-control regulations.

The City Council of Madison, Wis., approved sick and bereavement leave to domestic partners of city employees and extend

the right of domestic partners to live in single-family zones.

Supporters of the San Francisco measure termed the November 7 vote a "setback," but consider it only a "temporary postponement" of recognition.

"We knew from the start of this election that those who were most likely to vote were against us," the openly gay Britt said.

"We knew we needed an extraordinary turnout to offset this relatively small, but frequently-voting group of conservatives who do not represent the San Francisco experience of inclusion, acceptance and understanding," he added. "We launched an aggressive campaign only three weeks before the election."

Political pundits have attributed low voter turnout to the aftermath of the October 17 earthquake that rocked the Bay area. Despite that aggressive campaign by supporters of Proposition S, "all of [the] energy and resources [were diverted] to assist in the city's recovery," Britt said.

"We have suffered a setback, but the defeat only temporarily postpones these important steps in recognizing non-traditional relationships," Britt said. "The Mayor's Task Force will immediately move forward."

"We will move quickly to realize the dreams which were jolted in the election's aftershock." •



# LOCAL COLOR

compiled from **STAFF REPORTS**

## Chattanooga

### Pro-choice workshop next week

A pro-choice political skills workshop will be held in Chattanooga Saturday, December 2, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 3224 Navajo Drive.

Sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Tennessee and Tennesseans Keeping Abortion Legal and Safe (TKALS), the agenda includes a review of local legislators' voting records on abortion, an overview of anti-abortion legislation in other states, and a discussion of anti-choice legislation expected to be introduced during the 1990 session of the Tennessee legislature.

For more information, contact ACLU at (615) 320-7142 or TKALS at (615) 327-0821. •

### Theatre presents Dickens classic

Chattanooga Little Theatre will present Charles Dickens' classic holiday tale, *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*, December 1-16.

Presented by a large local cast, the traditional holiday story follows the exploits of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and company.

For reservations, call (615) 267-8534.

Auditions for the upcoming production *CYRANO DE BERGERAC* will be held December 3-4 at the theatre. •

### Alliance plans holiday fête

Members of the Chattanooga Gay and Lesbian Alliance will host a holiday event to collect donations for the Chattanooga Fire Department's "Toys for Tots" campaign on Saturday, December 16.

The Alliance will meet Saturday, November 25, at 7 p.m. at Shoney's near Golden Gateway for a planning session.

Call (615) 867-5911 for information. •

## Memphis

### Playhouse presents 'Annie'

For the first time in its 15-year history, Memphis' Playhouse on the Square will present, as its holiday offering for 1989, the Tony Award-winning musical *ANNIE*.

The show opens at the Playhouse, 51 S. Cooper, on Friday, November 17, and continues through January 4, 1990.

Some 39 people will comprise the cast and crew of director Ken Zimmerman's production, led by Brooke Smythe and Rebecca Stolarick who will alternate in the title role. Ron West will play Daddy Warbucks and Mary F. Yeargin has been cast as Miss Hannigan, director of the orphanage where Annie is found.

Ticket prices are \$14 for adults for all evening performances and \$12 for matinees. Tickets for students, seniors and children for any performance are \$8. For reservations, call (901) 726-4656. •

## Nashville

### New productions to open

Cynthia Heimel's *A GIRL'S GUIDE TO CHAOS* will open tonight at Actor's Playhouse and will continue Friday and Saturdays through December 16.

Directed by Mark Cabus and starring Virginia Burke, Reece Faw, Edsonya Charles and Rene Copeland, the Actor's Playhouse production will be the southeastern premiere of the off-Broadway comedy.

Curtain time tonight and Saturday, November 25 in 8 p.m., and subsequent performances will have an 11 p.m. curtain. Call (615) 327-0049 for reservations.

Tennessee Repertory Theatre will reprise its holiday musical, *CHRISTMAS MEMORIES*, for a December 7-23 run at TPAC's Polk Theatre.

The cast, under the direction of Mac Pirkle, will include a number of TRT veterans and members of the 1989-90 theatre training program. Ginger Newman, who won the *Dare* First Night Award for best actress in a musical, is among the show's stars.

For reservations, call (615) 320-7172. •

### TNA plans march

Nashville-based Tennessee Network for Animals (TNA) will hold a march today, Friday, November 24, in conjunction with other anti-fur marches throughout the country.

The march will begin at 11 a.m. at the Centennial Park Bandshell.

TNA will hold its December general meeting on Saturday, December 9 at 1:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Boulevard.

Dedicated to the total elimination of animal abuse and exploitation, TNA works for the rights of all animals through public education, legislation and direct action, said TNA president Jonathan Kasper.

For details, call (615) 383-8516. •

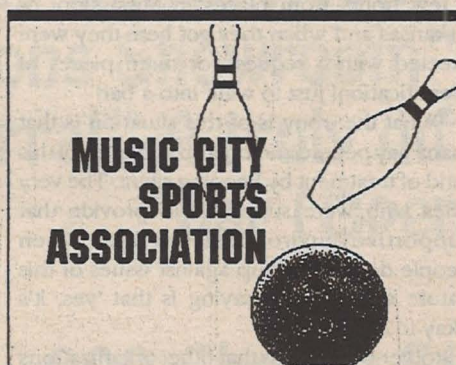
### Music City Rollers hit midpoint

Nashville's lesbian and gay bowling league, the Music City Rollers is midway through its 1989-90 season, which will culminate with league championships being determined in March, 1990.

The mixed league, which is sanctioned by the American Bowling Congress and the Women's International Bowling Congress, bowls on Sundays from 1-3 p.m. at Melrose Lanes on Franklin Road.

League officers include: Harry Harrington, president; Michael Smith, vice president; Doug White, secretary/treasurer; and Pam Hunter, sergeant at arms.

The league, part of the recently-formed Music City Sports Association, is planning a fundraiser in the coming weeks. •



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— DARE STAFF ILLUSTRATION



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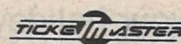
Saturday, December 16, 7:00 p.m.  
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Reception with the entire cast following the concert \$25  
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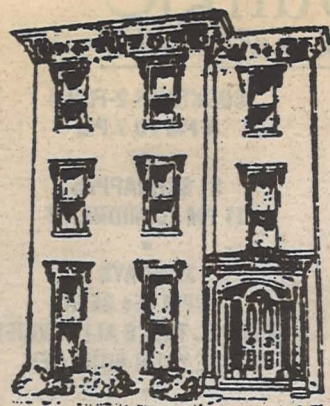
Additional locations: *It's A Scream* and *The Book Oasis*.



All proceeds go to benefit GCN/Nashville.

For technical reasons the originally scheduled "Texas Two Stepping With The Girls", has been postponed until January 27, at 7:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Call GCN at 254-8250 for more information.





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## BLACK & GAY

### Memphis' Black and White Men Together

Last in a six-part series  
by **LAURA TEK**  
Staff Writer

**THROUGHOUT THE PAST** six weeks, the lives of black gay men and lesbians in Tennessee have been examined and considered through a series of interviews.

Faced with battling the triple prejudices of sexism, homophobia and racism, their lives are very different from the white majority. There are, however, some organizations which seek to break down the barriers and to facilitate better understanding among the various sub-groups of the overall gay and lesbian community.

Black and White Men Together (BWMT) is one such group. With a chapter in Memphis (with a membership of 25-30 men), BWMT works to combat racism and homophobia.

BWMT has not been, however, without its share of problems and controversy with other gay groups in Memphis.

"We are not at odds with the other gay organizations in Memphis," said Ed Dillard, one of the group's co-facilitators. "We simply have our own separate agenda that deals with issues like racism and bigotry. Some folks feel that perhaps that it's not their obligation or that it's an issue for them to pick up on and be concerned about. We do. I mean how many times have you turned on your television and seen gay, black issues being addressed?"

"Part of the reason that we've had some problems with other groups here in Memphis is that when we were first formed we were very conscious of the fact that many of the bars then, and to some extent still do, practiced racial discrimination," said BWMT member Irwin Rothenberg. "They always asked for more ID from a black man than from a white man. Especially if the black man came alone. If they're in the company of a white person, then they were asked for less. This discrimination has been observed and documented."

"The bars," Dillard suggested. "Were supposed to be the havens to where gays could escape from our oppressors. They were supposed to provide a supportive environment. Many young men would come into town for a few hours from places in Mississippi or Arkansas and when they got here they were greeted with a request for three pieces of identification! Just to walk into a bar!"

"What the irony is of this situation is that many gay people and organizations ratify this kind of treatment by keeping silent. The very ones who were supposed to provide that supportive environment for me. When people don't speak up against issues of this nature what they're saying is that 'yes, it's okay to do this.'"

Rothenberg claims that other organizations have done little to combat racism in the community. Designed to deal with "gay and lesbian issues" rather than racial issues, the agenda for other groups differ greatly from that of BWMT.

Both Dillard and Rothenberg were quick to point out that they don't find fault with leaders of other organizations, saying instead that those other groups place racism very far down on their lists of priorities.

"I don't think the average gay white person really understands this. They don't seem to see the interrelationships among a lot of issues. For instance, they don't seem to be alarmed by the abortion issue. To them, what does it matter that a poor Latina mother cannot afford an abortion. What does that have to do with a gay white man making a \$50,000 a year income? It's almost an utopian attitude. People cannot be selective about the kinds of oppression they choose to attack," Dillard says. "Women, Latinos, Asians, everybody shares the burden."

Both on the local and national levels, BWMT focuses on the black gay, lesbian and bisexual communities, working with other groups, both social and political. BWMT considers itself just as much an anti-racist organization as it does a gay group.

Each month, the Memphis chapter holds a variety of activities to fulfill the needs of its membership, including twice-monthly consciousness raising meetings that consider various aspects of relationships, interraciality, racism and other aspects of gay life.

There are also social activities such as dinners, potlucks and parties designed to bring people together, and cultural activities such as museum visits and outings to performances by the Black Arts Alliance of Memphis.

And while not specifically an AIDS organization, BWMT nonetheless focuses much of its energy on AIDS education and services. A grant from the Centers for Disease Control funds a subsidiary of the national organization called the National Task Force for AIDS Prevention.

Rothenberg is a member of the project management committee that oversees the administration of the grant which is a five year grant designed to provide education to black gay and bisexual men.

Its primary focus is on AIDS education, safer-sex workshops, essential prevention, behavioral modification and partnership building with other groups of similar interest.

**"IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE** total equality, tolerance and acceptance, people have to be willing to learn and learn and learn. And then tear up everything they've learned and go back and learn some more."

"People must not be afraid to admit they're wrong or having their consciousness level raised."

"We have to be able to say, 'Yes we are gay, we are this,' but part of the definition of our gayness is that we want to see an environment where women feel comfortable, where black people feel comfortable, where Asians feel comfortable and on and on," Dillard says. "We want to encourage an environment where human expression can feel comfortable." •





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# CENTERPIECE

*We got the music in us*

**m**ORE THAN anything else, music in the '80s reflected the changing state of the world. If the politics



Eurythmics' Annie Lennox. — DARE  
FILE PHOTO

by MARK  
LAWRENCE  
Staff Writer

of the '80s seemed to undergo great changes, moving from Carter to Reagan to Bush, then music went through equal transformations.

The start of the '80s, like the start of many other decades, was actually more like the end of the decade before. As the '80s began, lesbians and gay men in Tennessee's dance bars were moving to the sounds of artists like ABBA and Donna Summer (more about her later).

In the early '80s, Debra DeJean was playing "Goosebumps" in Memphis gay bars, and songs like "Gloria," "Betty Davis Eyes," and "Endless Love" were topping the charts. The number one song of 1980 was by Blondie. Disco was taking its last dance, but it still lived.

Of course, disco didn't die, it just started living under assumed names (witness the current growth of "house music"). But both the artists and the music changed.

The first big sign that the '80s had arrived in their own right was the so-called "Second British Invasion." With it came one of the most important elements of '80s music, especially for lesbians and gay men — gender bending. Led by Culture Club's Boy George (in make-up and cornrows) and the

Eurythmics' Annie Lennox (in a red crewcut or an Elvis wig, as the occasion demanded), artists of dubious sex (much less sexual orientation) filled the charts with equally unspecific love songs. They almost invariably used words like "you" and "baby" in place of gender-indentifiable

terms.

If the decade had its rising stars, it also had its falling stars. In 1983 (the year of "Sweet Dreams" and "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me") fans at Donna Summer concerts began reporting that they heard her make such post-concert statements as "God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve," and "AIDS is a punishment from God." A boycott ensued from lesbians and gay men, long a large segment of Summer's fans. By the end of the decade, Summer, who hasn't had a big hit since the boycott began, was claiming that she never said any of it.

Donna wasn't the only one claiming not to be saying, or doing, things that people were talking about. Madonna might never have been like a virgin, but when she started running around with Sandra Bernhard, even she had to counsel fans, "Don't believe the rumors."

As for the other big breakthrough of the middle of the decade, Prince, perhaps the most telling statement was the musical response of Sheila E. to rumors that she and the purple wonder were lovers: "If they knew the real truth/They'd probably die." ("Sister Fate," 1985)

As much fun as it might be to watch the rumors fly, music in the '80s was more than just entertaining. It was political; it was sexual; and most of all, it was pervasive. It was there when we drove and when we ran. Music and its offspring, the music video, came from our radios, televisions, movie screens and even our greeting cards. It was everywhere.

If music was everywhere, where was lesbian and gay music? Well, that depends on what "gay music" refers to.

If gay music means music by

homosexual artists, then gay music was at the top of the heap. Now, I'm not saying that any given artist is gay if she or he hasn't already said so. After all, Liberace once successfully sued a publication for libel because it said he was gay.

The top song of the 1980s is Olivia Newton-John's "Physical," which spent 10 straight weeks at number one on the BILLBOARD Top 40. Enough said.

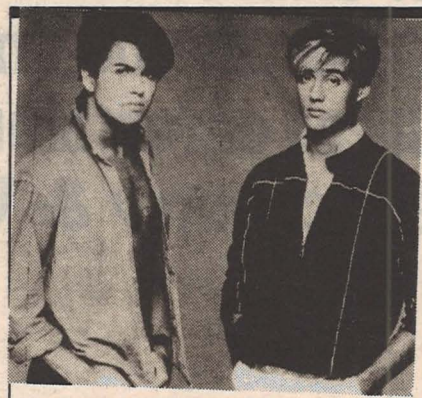
The top album of the '80s (and in history) is Michael Jackson's THRILLER. I'm certainly not saying that Michael is gay — he's got lot's of money to hire libel lawyers. Besides, he gives every impression of being completely neuter. However, there was enough talk that he was gay to make it into the Timex Social Club's top 10 dance hit "Rumors" ("Did you hear that one about Michael?/Some say he must be gay."). And the fact that someone people even think is gay could be the top artist of the decade is a positive sign in this homophobic age of AIDS.

Even more heartening was the success of "That's What Friends Are For" by Dionne Warwick and Friends. Intended to raise money for AIDS research, it not only made money (\$1.4 million), but also became the top-selling song of 1986.

The only artist to have the number one songs of two different years during the eighties is George Michael. He made the top with "Careless Whisper" in 1985 and "Faith" in 1987, and along the way became one of only a handful of artists to write six or more number one hits (all but one of which are love songs using the androgynous "you").

The top album of 1986 was Whitney Houston's self-titled debut.

But the success of such artists can hardly be said to be the best measure of the achievements of lesbian



Wham's George Michael and Andrew Ridgeley. —  
DARE FILE PHOTO

eightysc





Madonna — DARE FILE PHOTO

and gay music in the eighties.

Perhaps more reflective are the successes of openly gay artists like Elton John and The Smiths. Even if listeners didn't catch on when Boy George promised to "run the gun for you" in the top 10 "I'll Tumble 4

something

Ya," they could hardly fail to know he was gay after he said so in interviews.

And they bought his records.

The surprising success of women artists like k.d. lang, Michelle Shocked, and, most of all, Tracy Chapman. The chart-topping success of Chapman's albums, TRACY CHAPMAN and CROSSROADS cannot help but serve as an inspiration to other women singers, both lesbian and straight.

Indeed, folk music has become a prime growth area of gay artists. Gay male folk artists such as Romanovsky and Phillips are increasingly popular, and Michelle Shocked was amply justified in declaring, upon winning an award as "Best Female Folk Artist," that the category might be more aptly called "Best Lesbian Vocalist."

In an era in which coming out is a scandal for politicians and homophobic violence is the death of too many women and men on the streets, the success of gay singers can help give us some hope that music may still have charms to soothe the savage breast. •



Boy George — DARE FILE PHOTO

#### What '80s songs will you remember?

- "When Doves Cry" Prince
- "Tainted Love" Soft Cell
- "Endless Love" Diana Ross and Lionel Richie
- "I Need A Man" Eurhythmics
- "Don't You Want Me?" Human League
- "Total Eclipse of the Heart" Bonnie Tyler
- "Whoever's in New England" Reba McEntire
- "Physical" Olivia Newton-John
- "Born in the USA" Bruce Springsteen
- "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?" Culture Club
- "I Dreamed A Dream" from LES MISÉRABLES
- "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" Wham!
- "Careless Whisper" George Michael
- "Control" Janet Jackson
- "Thriller" Michael Jackson
- "Diggin' Up Bones" Randy Travis
- "Mama, He's Crazy" The Judds
- "Material Girl" Madonna
- "Rapture" Anita Baker
- "West End Girls" Pet Shop Boys
- "Chains of Love" Erasure
- "Fast Car" Tracy Chapman
- "Saving All My Love For You" Whitney Houston
- "Graceland" Paul Simon
- "Memory" from CATS
- "Morning Train" Sheena Easton
- "Walk Like An Egyptian" The Bangles
- "What's New?" Linda Ronstadt
- "Honky Tonk Angels Medley" k.d. lang, Loretta Lynn, Brenda Lee and Kitty Wells
- "Flashdance" Irene Cara
- "The Time of My Life" Jennifer Warnes and Bill Medley

# SOME

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# R E T R O S P E C T I V E

## Heroes and victims

by **SHERRE DRYDEN**  
Book Editor

**T**HE PROGRESS of gay and lesbian rights in the '80s was slow, small victories followed by small defeats. Some cities and towns passed nondiscrimination laws, but men and women continued to be brutalized because of their sexuality. Sometimes the defeats seemed insurmountable, the violence unbearable.

The heroes of the decade are the individuals who defied physical danger, risked the loss of jobs of the disapproval or families and friends to transform themselves from victims into heroes. To fight back however they could when they were attacked.

The victims of the decade, those who didn't have a chance to fight back, should also be our heroes.

### eightysomething

• 1980 — Cumberland, Rhode Island  
Police kept reporters

and photographers at bay. Nervous chaperones watched for trouble. Aaron Fricke playfully stuck out his tongue at the press. When he put his head on Paul Guilbert's shoulder, people stared.

Fricke had sued for, and won, the right to attend his high school senior prom with the date of his choice.

• 1980 — Mesa, Arizona

After four years on the force, police officer Rand Steven Horn told his supervisors he was gay. Three weeks later they fired him.

Horn sued, arguing that state anti-sodomy laws were unconstitutional because they infringe upon a person's right to privacy. Superior Court Judge Joseph Howe upheld Horn's dismissal, agreeing that his "homosexual conduct was unacceptable to fellow officers and the majority of Mesa citizens."

• 1981 — Cincinnati

Stephanie Riethmiller and Patty Thiemann were walking home to their apartment. Two men stopped them, asking for directions. As Thiemann and Riethmiller paused, the men squirted Mace in Thiemann's face and dragged Riethmiller into a waiting van. Inside the van was

Riethmiller's father.

Riethmiller's parents, Marita and William, were convinced that their daughter had become estranged from them after beginning a lesbian relationship with Thiemann, that Thiemann controlled Riethmiller's mind. They paid Ted Patrick \$8,000 to "deprogram" her.

Riethmiller was taken by her parents, Naomi Goss, James Roe and a man identified only as Ray to a secluded cabin in Alabama. For seven days, she told police, she was handcuffed, verbally abused and repeatedly raped.

A jury found Patrick, Goss, Roe and the Riethmillers innocent of assault and sexual battery. They were divided on whether Goss and Roe were guilty of abduction. Riethmiller tried living with her parents after the kidnapping, but soon returned to her apartment with Thiemann.

• 1982 — Boston

Christine Madsen arrived at work to discover that she had been fired as editor of the *CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR* because she acknowledged being a lesbian.

*MONITOR* publishers called Madsen a "personnel problem" and fired her. She filed a lawsuit against the *MONITOR*.

Madsen's attorney, Katherine Triantafillou, maintained that the fact that the *MONITOR* is published by the Christian Science Publishing Company, not the Church of Christ, Scientist itself, changes their legal obligations to employees.

"We want the court to say you can't fire a lesbian for being a lesbian," Triantafillou explained.

• 1983 — Berkeley, California

Tim Curran joined the Boy Scouts in 1975. By the time he submitted an application to become a scout leader, he had amassed 22 merit badges and made Eagle Scout.

The Boy Scouts rejected Curran's application because they'd seen his picture in an article about gay life in the San Francisco area. Quentin Alexander, head of the local scout council, denied Curran's claim that scout leaders feared "some kind of hanky-panky molestation on my part."

"The only real question," Alexander said, "is whether or not his lifestyle is acceptable in an adult leader."

Curran decided to sue. "As a Boy

Scout I learned that I have an obligation to my community — and that means the gay community."

• 1983 — Washington, D.C.

Around midnight William Hassell stopped off for a nightcap at a bar near his apartment. Kevin Kinnahan and Matthew Warring approached him and asked him to go to a party at American University.

Instead of the party, Warring and Kinnahan drove Hassell to a secluded park where they forced him at knife point to strip and lie on the ground while they repeatedly kicked him in the groin, slashed his hand with a knife, urinated on him and threatened to emasculate him, or kill him.

Hassell got away after swinging a tree limb at Kinnahan and Warring. One of them chased him as he ran, naked and bleeding, through the woods and underbrush. He found a house with lights, climbed the fence, stumbled over patio furniture and beat on the door. A woman let him inside and called police.

Hassell needed two operations on his hand and another to repair damage to his genitals.

Police called the assault one of the most brutal incidents of anti-homosexual violence in memory. Assistant U.S. District Attorney Jeffrey Behm said the attack was a "savage and prolonged ritual of humiliation and torture" by individuals attempting to "vent their hatred for homosexuals."

Warring, 18, and Kinnahan, 17, were charged as adults, but were allowed to plead guilty to assault with a deadly weapon, a felony with possible sentences up to ten years in prison.

Judge Nicholas Nunzio placed Warring and Kinnahan on probation and ordered them to work in a soup kitchen.

• 1984 — Los Angeles

When Zandra Rolon and Deborah Johnson were refused seating in the "intimate room" of the Papa Choux Restaurant, "they picked on the wrong people on the wrong day," Rolon declared.

The two women selected the Papa Choux because it had a section reserved for "very special and romantic dining." They had reservations, but restaurant employees refused to seat them, claiming a city ordinance prohibited them from serving same-sex couples in the

curtained booths.

In fact, a Los Angeles ordinance prohibited sexual orientation discrimination. The women charged the Papa Choux with a violation of a state civil rights act and the municipal code. The first judge who heard the case declared the code unconstitutional, stating that he could not rule ahead of social mores that frowned upon romantic conduct between homosexuals, but an appellate court reversed his decision.

• 1984 — San Francisco

David Rogers told his friends, "Let's go beat up some faggots."

He, Timothy White and Donny Clanton drove 40 miles to San Francisco where they went on a spree of violence that led Mayor Diane Feinstein to post a \$10,000 reward in the case.

One of their victims, John O'Connell, was knocked to the sidewalk, went into a coma and died several days later. Officials acknowledged that "the attack was unprovoked and seems clearly to have been motivated solely by mindless homophobia." Rogers, White and Clanton were convicted of murder and sentenced to prison terms of 15 years to life.

Those murder convictions were overturned in 1989, reduced to involuntary manslaughter. White, Clanton and Rogers were eligible for immediate release from prison.

• 1985 — Gainesville, Georgia

Bill Stewart, Jr. and Doyle Lamar Self were put on probation and ordered to perform community service and pay \$1,000 each in the first sodomy trial in the country after the Supreme Court upheld Georgia's statute criminalizing consensual sodomy.

A sheriff's deputy found Stewart and Self having sex in a van parked in an interstate rest area.

"These men were caught in the act of sodomy in a public area," Assistant District Attorney Daniel Summer said.

• 1985 — Marina Del Rey, California

Vernon Mitchell, Mark Tullai and John Bathcelor had stopped at the grocery to buy ice cream.

They heard a voice over the store loudspeaker: "Faggot, get out of the market and don't come back." Then someone else shouted out, "Faggot, go back to San Francisco."



1983 Eagle Scout Tim Curran.

— DARE FILE PHOTO



Mitchell said he was used to being publicly ridiculed for being gay and usually ignored rude comments. Instead of ignoring the supermarket incident, Mitchell, Tullai and Batchelor filed a lawsuit accusing the market of violating the California Civil Rights Act.

In addition to paying the men's legal fees, the store agreed to issue a formal apology and forbid discrimination based on sexual orientation.

• 1987 — Indianapolis

A few weeks after Kathleen Sarris appeared on radio and television talk shows as president of the lesbian and gay rights group Justice, Inc., she was raped at gunpoint and beaten unconscious. The man who did it said he would turn her into a heterosexual or kill her.

• 1987 — Shreveport, Louisiana

"As a gay man, I may be in the best position to write about the deeper prejudice that infuses this issue," David Connelly wrote in a column on AIDS.

Connelly was the arts critic for the SHREVEPORT JOURNAL and the column appeared on the newspaper's editorial page. He had never before made a public declaration of his sexual orientation.

Connelly's editor, Stanley Tiner, praised Connelly's "eloquence and courage," and added that he could recall no other "person of standing" making such a declaration in Shreveport, the last capital of the Confederacy. He said publishing Connelly's "long-silent truth would be liberating" to others.

• 1988 — New York City

David Gatten had an excellent job performance record with the MCI Communications Corporation. He had just been promoted. Then he was fired by a new boss who said that co-workers objected to Gatten's homosexuality.

Gatten sued MCI, charging that the company had violated the city's statute that bars discrimination



1980 Aaron Fricke (left) and prom date Paul Guilbert. — DARE FILE PHOTO

based on sexual orientation. Gatten's settlement with MCI led the company to issue a written prohibition against such discrimination throughout its nation-wide operations.

• 1989 — New York City

At a little past midnight, Bruce Ellerin had just finished a late run in the park. He sat down on a bench to talk with Stewart Elliot. First one youth came out of the darkness, then five or six others; eventually there was a gang of twelve.

They yelled anti-gay slurs at the two men and told them to leave the park, then began to punch and kick Ellerin and Elliot. Ronald Meyer, sitting on a nearby bench, came to their aid. The gang punched Meyer, too, and then "just walked away as if they had done their thing for the night and it was okay," Meyer said.

Meyer and Elliot were treated and released. Ellerin was hospitalized with a broken cheekbone. Even though most of the other park benches were occupied at the time, no one else came to help. •



1981 Abductee Stephanie Riethmiller. — DARE FILE PHOTO

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RITA ROSS

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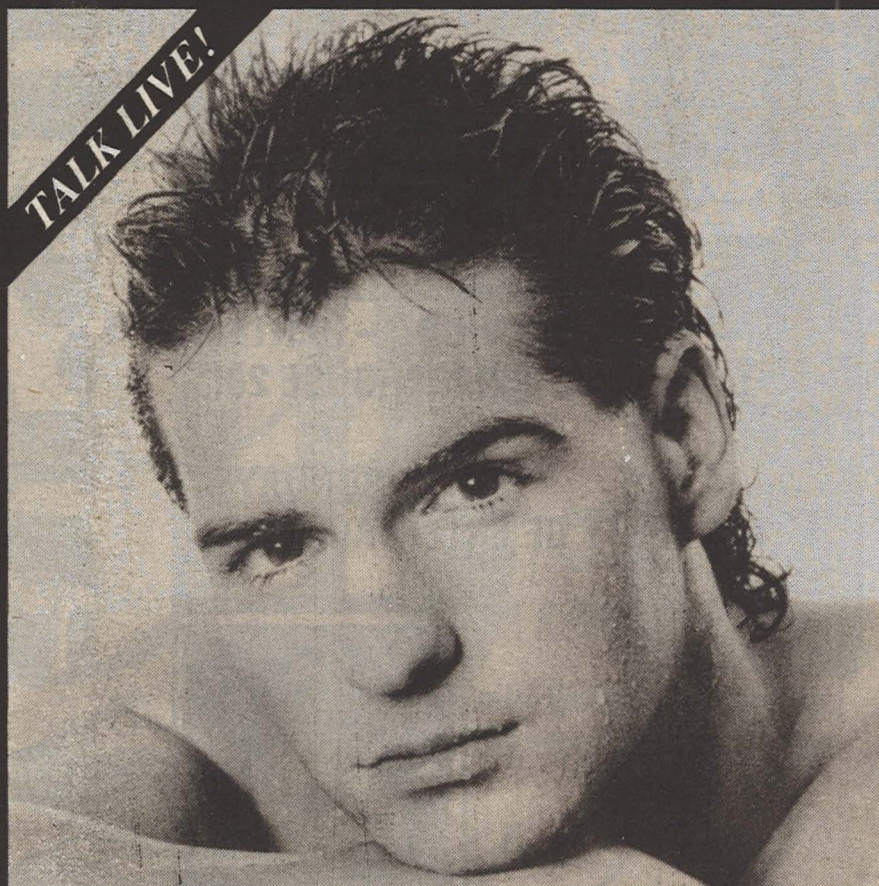
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## CURTAINS

### Victor Jara lives

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THEY KILLED VICTOR JARA? By Deborah Rogin. Directed by Victoria Racimo.  
431 B.C. at Actor's Playhouse, Nashville. November 16-18.

reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**  
Editor

**WITH WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THEY KILLED VICTOR JARA?**, playwright Deborah Rogin has crafted a play that is something of a conundrum, and in so doing she has created two enigmatic characters.

The result is an uneven dramatic work, sometimes intriguing in its examination of the characters and events, at others stilted and boring in its exposition. As a "work in progress," the version of the play produced by 431 B.C. at Actor's Playhouse is probably quite different from the productions future audiences will see.

Our only hope is that Rogin will be fortunate enough to find actors as capable as Scott Moreno and Dennis Ewing to bring her page-bound characters to life. Both actors gave performances that fairly bubbled with intensity under the somewhat stylized and mannered direction of Victoria Racimo.

Moreno plays Paul, a young officer in Chilean Army Intelligence, saddled with the task of breaking the spirit of a prisoner named Raphael (Ewing) who's been arrested for singing a forbidden folk song about peasant martyr Victor Jara over a state-run radio station. Early on, we learn that both Paul and Raphael grew up amid the luxury of an upper-class neighborhood and that Raphael actually saved the younger man's life by reporting his nurse's abuse to Paul's parents.

Raphael doesn't remember the episode because he's suffered amnesia since 1973, following the assassination of Victor Jara. Since that time (the play's action is set in 1984 Santiago), he's taken on Jara's history as his own.

Paul is charged by superiors to break through Raphael's resistance and to convince him to recant his radio statements.

We learn this from the synopsis in the program and, rather abstractly, from the play's action.

Unfortunately, the dialogue is not clear enough to effectively explain the plot's details. It's never quite clear if Raphael is truly amnesiac or if the story Paul relates is really about him. Too often Rogin's play seems to be a catch-all of social maladies, a sort of name-your-injustice, that tends to muddy the focus: she includes tirades about child abuse, the holocaust and political unrest, in addition to her indictment of the CIA-led coup of 1973.

But perhaps most disconcerting is her characters' use of American slang and invectives. I've no doubt people in other parts of the world swear, but I'm not so sure they sound like they're in a locker room in Centerville, USA. When Paul and Raphael face the audience to relate their innermost thoughts and to shed light on the story, they tend to speak in stilted phrases and clipped tones. While Moreno and Ewing were wise not to effect Chilean accents, it seems that Rogin could have used more formal language to indicate that they are indeed speaking a language that is foreign to most Americans.

**DESPITE THOSE RESERVATIONS**, however, I can say that VICTOR JARA is effective drama. Some moments are truly chilling, wracked with emotional intensity.

The emotions, it seems, are right; it's just the dialogue that suffers from a lack of editing. •

## AIDS UPDATE

### British issue germanium warning

by **JACKI MOSS**  
Staff Writer

A letter from the British government recently warned British physicians of severe, possibly fatal side effects associated with germanium, a dietary supplement sometimes taken by people with AIDS.

Germanium may be called germanium sesquioxide or Ge-132. According to the letter, it may cause renal failure and death, in the worst cases, and other severe conditions as well. It also stated that the British Department of Health has found no evidence of nutritional value or health benefit in germanium.

If you have had difficulty or been rejected in applying for ddl treatment, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund may like to hear from you. The organization is collect-

ing data on the ddl application process and may be reached at (212) 995-8585.

People with AIDS must be constantly vigilant against contracting opportunistic infections and diseases. To assist in the battle, the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) National AIDS Information Clearinghouse (NAIC) has made available a 15-minute videotape on cooking, preparing and avoiding possible food-borne diseases for people with AIDS.

The video discusses which foods to avoid, proper cooking techniques, eating in restaurants, eating while travelling and avoiding contamination in the kitchen.

Individuals and organizations may obtain a free copy of the video by calling NAIC at (800) 458-5231 or writing NAIC at P.O. Box 6003, Rockville, Maryland, 20850. •





## PAGES

## Dead lovers and witchhunts

THE BEVERLY MALIBU. Katherine V. Forrest. Tallahassee: Naiad Press, 1989. 288 pages. \$16.95.

HALLOWED MURDER. Ellen Hart. Seattle: Seal Press, 1989. 244 pages. \$8.95, paper.

reviewed by **SHERRE DRYDEN**

Book Editor

**HALLOWED MURDER AND THE BEVERLY MALIBU** are both good mysteries. But really, it's unfortunate that having a dead lover to long for — two or three times a novel — seems to have become part of the formula for lesbian detective stories.

It will be interesting to see what Katherine V. Forrest does about Kate Delafield's rather self-pitying reminiscences of Anne, now that she's let Kate solve the mystery and get the girl in *THE BEVERLY MALIBU*. Maybe she'll leave the longing to Ellen Hart's Jane Lawless, who actually manages to miss her lover Christine without being annoying.

Forrest, a long time favorite of mystery fans, and Hart, a newcomer to the genre, both provide what I find essential to a good mystery novel — an intricate and well-crafted puzzle, a compelling sleuth and interesting, well-developed auxiliary characters. Both writers are more than competent, and certainly superior to many mystery writers published by the mainstream press. It's exciting that both choose to create lesbian sleuths and to be published by the feminist press.

*The Beverly Malibu* is an apartment building, the site of the gruesome murder of B-movie director Owen Sinclair. In a twist on the English house-party mystery, Forrest limits the suspects to the building's residents with a device only slightly less artificial than the English house-party itself.

Hazel Turner, the eccentric manager of the building, is a stickler for security. When Owen Sinclair couldn't find his keys, Hazel insisted that the outside locks be changed, but considered it Owen's own foolishness when he refused to put a new lock on his own apartment. Thus, no one from outside could enter the building, yet anyone inside might have Owen's house key.

As a fan of house-party mysteries, I enjoyed the time Forrest could spend on her characters and their intrigues and inter-connections, time that isn't usually available in police procedurals. I also think the device was a wise idea given the character of her murder victim. Owen Sinclair was a reprehensible man, despised by nearly everyone he came into contact with. Forrest needed an artificial limitation on the suspect pool to keep the plot from getting out of control.

Although the evidence is all there for Kate (and any experienced mystery buff) to solve the puzzle, the solution is not obvious and Kate needs one moment of light-dawning for all of the pieces to come together. Unfortunately, that moment is based on an assumption that's just plain silly. To say more will give the story away, but Forrest could have easily done better.

She could also have done better in presenting Kate's thoughts on lesbian politics and coming out. *THE BEVERLY MALIBU* is a highly political book, as much about the results of Sen. Joseph McCarthy's communist witch-hunts, the Hollywood blacklist and informing on colleagues to save oneself as it is about the mystery of Owen Sinclair's murder.

Forrest's position on the subject is clear, and there is a message, too, in her opposition of those who have been persecuted as communists in the name of patriotism with gay men, lesbians and, particularly, people with AIDS. As obvious as Forrest's mission is — there is even a note about further reading at the end of the novel — she is never heavy-handed. The issues are presented and examined through dialogue and action, rather than exposition, so one never feels she is reading a treatise instead of a novel. Kate's personal views, on the other hand, are often conveyed as statements of the narrator and so seem less natural and more didactic.

*HALLOWED MURDER* is equally entertaining, with plenty of sub-plots and red herrings, so I was pleased to read that Hart is working on a second Jane Lawless mystery.

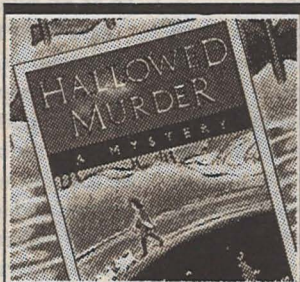
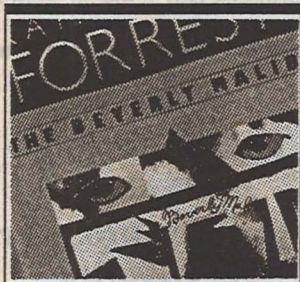
Jane is a restaurant owner — plenty of possibilities for murder plots there — with a slightly too caustic sidekick, theatre director Cordelia Thorn. In *HALLOWED MURDER*, Jane gets involved when she finds Kappa Alpha Sigma sister Allison Lord's body in the

river. The police aren't even sure Allison's death was murder, and if it was, they tend to suspect her lover, Emily Anderson. Jane, an alumna adviser to the college sorority, is determined to uncover the truth.

Hart is especially good when it comes to plotting. By the end of the novel, the solution is well supported, but still unexpected. The near comedy-of-errors ending, particularly, keeps the reader on edge, even after the murderer is revealed. Hart overdoes the impression of mysterious foreboding surrounding the characters a bit: her tie-it-all-up explanations of their actions at the end of the novel are somewhat anti-climactic.

Hart's characterization of Cordelia, on occasion truly a thorn in Jane's side, is the one element in *HALLOWED MURDER* that could be a problem in future novels. Cordelia is evidently meant to be a crab with a heart of gold, conclusion-jumping counterpoint to Jane's orderly rationale.

The reasons she behaves as she does, and thus the reasons her character exists in the novel, are more often inexplicable. She's a promising character, but out of control. Hart needs to use her more deliberately than she has in *HALLOWED MURDER*.



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Happy holidays from *Dare*, Tennessee's first and only truly statewide lesbian and gay organization.

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## BETWEEN THE LINES

### Hearing the music

by **JEFF ELLIS**  
Editor

**DURING THE PAST** several weeks, members of the *Dare* staff have been hard at work to bring you our eight-week retrospective of the 1980s called, appropriately, "eighty-something."

As you might have guessed, that's brought about a lot of reminiscing and remembering on our part, as we've struggled to come up with interesting stories that accurately reflect the way we were in the '80s and that capture the essence of our times.

This decade has been one of many changes, not only for our staff members, but for the lesbian and gay community as a whole, so we have a number of stories yet to come.

But for me, personally, nothing has brought back so many memories as this week's story about the music of the '80s. (Let's face it, when you hear an old song, you almost always think back to the time you first heard it.) When I was asked what song typified the '80s to me, I really had several choices, because I lived most of the decade in Memphis and Nashville, and so the decade is compartmentalized, the different years are memorable for different reasons.

When I first started going out to the bars, my first trip was to one in Nashville. It was here that I first learned about the social implications of lesbian and gay life — you know, how to cruise someone in the bar and how to get rid of them the morning after — and whenever I hear "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" by Diana Ross, my memory takes me back to Warehouse 28 and the throngs of people flocking to the dance floor.

But the song that really typifies Nashville in 1981 to me is a song by ABBA. I can't remember the name to save my life, but to me, that song was what dancing in a queer bar was all about. I never heard the song on the radio, but when I heard, I headed to the dance floor.

Later, when I moved to Memphis, the bar scene was much different — they never played ABBA or "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and I actually went to drag shows on a regular basis — and I tended to go out a lot more than I had in Nashville. So whenever I hear "Tainted Love" by Soft Cell or "Finger on the Trigger" by Donna Summer (back when she knew to keep her mouth shut), I'm suddenly transported back to 1982.

When I hear those songs, I'm much younger and thinner than I am now; tanned and wearing white walking shorts, laughing and drinking with some friends from Hayti, Mo., and my nephews Jamie and Scottie, who were as much a part of the Memphis social scene to me as were Michelle Marie and Renée Williams.

It's a bittersweet memory (It's hard realizing you can now be called an "older man,"), made even more poignant by the fact that in 1982, we didn't know much about AIDS, so the social milieu of gay life was very different then. And a lot of people you danced with, or laughed with, or even slept with, are no longer alive. But when I hear Laura Brannigan singing "Gloria," I forget. And I'm 24 again. •

## Dare

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

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

November 24 - 30, 1989  
Volume 2, Number 47

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Dare logo designed by  
**RUSEL BROWN**



Dare is published weekly by  
Pyramid Light & Power  
Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422  
(615) 327-Dare

**ADVERTISING**  
Please phone for ad rates and information.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
\$32 per year, \$16 for six months.  
Postal Service: send address changes to:  
Circulation Department  
Dare  
Box 40422  
Nashville, TN 37204-0422

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

## SOAPBOX

### Love and domestic partnerships

by **JIM ROCHE**  
Contributing Writer

**MY TEENAGED DAUGHTER** finally asked me the big question, "Are you and David going to get married?"

I said we hoped to, pretty soon. We just hadn't worked out all the details. Then she asked, "Who's going to wear the dress?"

I hear comments like that all the time. When I speak on gay issues at colleges and universities someone inevitably asks me a similar question, like "Well who's, you know, dominant?" Or something more direct like, "Who likes being on top?"

The list of questions that would amuse you goes on and on. Lesbians and gay men, it seems, are a real mystery to most people. What we do, how we act, what we think and feel. But a more important point is that so many people seem to think that a relationship, gay or straight, means someone on top and someone on bottom.

Something inherently unequal. Opposites attract is the theory, I guess. And that's why so many lesbian and gay people don't want to have anything to do with marriages or weddings or anything similar. Because it just seems to reflect the worst that heterosexual relationships have to offer — inequality and oppression.

So why would two lesbians or two gay men want to have anything to do with one of the most oppressive systems around?

As a couple there are certain things that my lover David and I want to share. Time together. Interests. Friendships. We already share a lot of things, but because we're gay we can't share some things without a hassle. Like health benefits. Legal rights to belongings, property and so on.

If one of us were to become ill, the other might not be included in choosing a doctor or hospital or treatment. Those decisions might be relegated to "immediate family members." We might not even be allowed to visit each

other. More immediately, I was hoping to take college courses this summer, but can David and I, as a couple, count on being able to use married student housing at any college I might go to? Or would we, because we are gay, be forced to live separately? In other words, if I want to go away to school and want the same services other students get, I might not be able to get them. For us going away to school as a couple would be more difficult and costly because we are gay.

Now there are legal ways around most, but not all, of this. Wills, powers of attorney and probate forms. But after all is said and done it would still be a relationship that is legalized in spite of the community we live in instead of with its help.

It's still second class citizenship no matter how you look at it. Slowly we are beginning to get our rights here and there across the country. But there is a growing number of people who oppose our rights to state- or church-sanctioned relationships.

We are a threat to the family. A threat to its oppressive male-oriented foundation. A threat to its dominance-oriented mentality. To its set rules and regulations.

**BUT IN SPITE** of what marriage and family has grown to represent to many of us lesbian and gay people, marriage, church unions or domestic partnerships demonstrate that we can keep the best of relationships going while we toss out what isn't of any value. As time goes on and lesbian and gay relationships in all their different forms are recognized by city and state governments, churches and organizations like the California Bar Association, we will help redefine marriage. Redefine relationship. What I hope people will learn from watching us is that we bring more to relationships than the roles we are supposed to play, or the clothes we're supposed to wear. •

*So many people seem to think that a relationship, gay or straight, means someone on top and someone on bottom.*

### Our House

Here it is again, Thanksgiving!

Many of you are saying "Just what the hell have I got to be thankful for?"  
I know how you feel. My

Lover of 6 years left me. My Grandfather died last week. My Truck quit to the tune of 6000, and my bills are close to the National Debt.

But I am thankful. My lover came to her senses. My grandfather is in a better place. We got the Volkswagen running. We are healthy. We've got good friends.



And we have you, our readers

**Happy Thanksgiving**

— DARE CARTOON BY LESLIE GUERIN-HAINES





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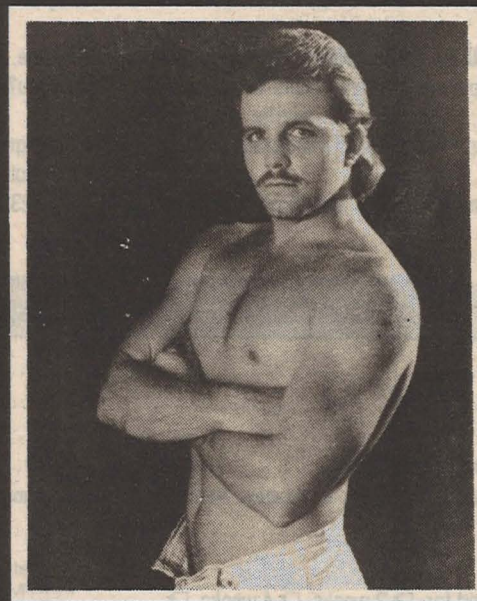
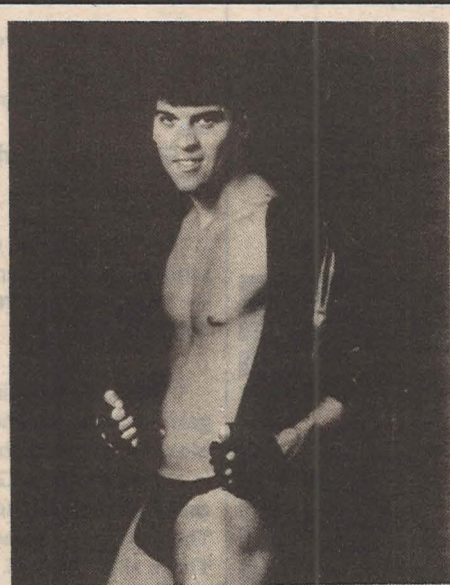
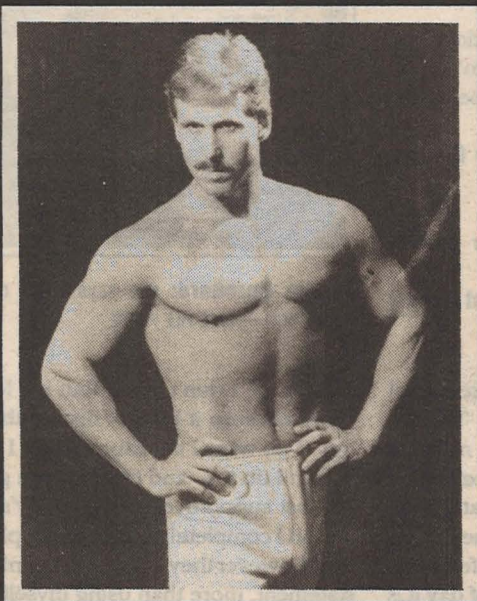
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## M A R K E T

## Announcements

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• I know you're out there — a good, honest mechanic. I have an old car that needs your help. Nashville. DARE DRAWER 40.

• **MUDMEN WANTED FROM TENNESSEE!** Hotmen into getting muddy at work or play. Info: Mudmen, P.O. Box 541352, Houston, TX 77254-1352.

• New lesbian and gay community meeting space needs interior decoration: chairs, lamps, tables, art-works, mirrors, bookshelves, rugs, ceiling fans. New or used. Nashville. Call GALLIP (615) 297-0008.

• **WANTED:** If you're reliable and conscientious, we're looking for you for commissioned ad sales in Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville. We're also looking for someone to deliver Dare in the Tri-Cities, our newest delivery area. Great part-time pay, perfect for students, 2nd job, etc. Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone (615) 327-Dare.

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• West End/Vandy duplex, 2BR, 1BA, LR, DR, new appliances, carpet. \$400/month. Nashville. (615) 269-6422.

• Commercial bldg over 1800 sq. ft, lot size 32' x 85', Central Business District. \$80,000. Kathy Douglas, TEAM Realty & Auction, Nashville. (615) 228-2189 or 333-3330.

## Personal

• M, XX00XX00 I love our XX00XX00 tuesday XX00XX00 and saturday XX00XX00 nights XX00XX00, L.

• Dear Nashvillians: Don't eat at Noodles restaurant. Tacky people work there. Ta, ta, Lady A. — Memphis.

• Scottie, Joe and Joel: Do you miss us as much as we miss you? We think the beach is calling our names...

• Photographer sks WMs 19-29 with athletic bodies for nude photo study. Confidential. Jackson. Phone Chris, (901) 423-1609.

## L O O S E L I P S

## Sandra on the waterfront

"I don't consider myself to be a racist and I don't suppose many people do — even racists. Some people enjoy their racism. Racism is hatred to me, and I don't think I have hatred. I grew up in a small town in the South, and life there was pretty strange for everybody." — **Singer Dianne Davidson, responding to charges that she made racist comments at the Michigan Women's Music Festival last August.**

"When gays 'act up,' lock'em up!" — **Unsigned poster found at Yale University.**

"I have a good understanding of the needs of the lesbian and gay community. I also have a good understanding of how the Democratic Party operates. I hope to combine my knowledge to make some concrete headway." — **Jean O'Leary, executive director of National Gay Rights Advocates, commenting on her appointment to the Resolutions Committee of the Democratic National Committee.**

"Many studies have discovered a close link between prejudice and 'patriotism' ...extreme bigots are almost always super-patriots." — **Gordon W. Allport, quoted in the October, 1989, issue of OMNI.**

"Sex education classes in our public schools are promoting incest." — **More rantings from televangelist Jimmy "Motel 6" Swaggart.**

"I listen to the feminists and all these radical gals — most of them are failures. They've blown it. Some of them have been married, but they married Casper Milquetoast who asked permission to go to the bathroom. These women just need a man in the house. That's all they need. Most of these feminists need a man to tell them what time of day it is and to lead them home. And they blew it and they're mad at all men. Feminists hate men. They're sexist. They hate men — that's their problem." — **Jerry Falwell on feminism.**

"Women have babies and men provide the support. If you don't like the way we're made you've got to take it up with God." — **Phyllis Schlafly, the total woman, on the birds and the bees — and women and men.**

"Men are attracted to serve in the military because of its intensely masculine character. The qualities that make [men] courageous soldiers — aggressiveness, risk-taking and enjoyment of body-contact competition — are conspicuously absent in women." — **Phyllis Schlafly, again. Obviously she doesn't know the same women we know.**

"I think contraception is disgusting — people using each other for pleasure." — **Joseph Scheidler, director, Pro-Life Action League. Ooh, yuck! Sex for pleasure? Give us a break, Joe.**

"I don't think Christians should use birth

control. You consummate your marriage as often as you like and if you have babies, you have babies."

— **Randall Terry, pro-lifer and philosopher.**

"We will certainly deal with Russell again." — **Marshall Herskovitz, executive producer of the ABC-TV series THIRTYSOMETHING, commenting on reports that several advertisers had pulled their support from a recent episode that dealt with two gay characters.**



**Sandra Bernhard:** she says she's covered the waterfront. — DARE FILE PHOTO

"But no, I don't talk about my love life in print, because it kind of dispels the mythology. I do what I do (laughs) and I do it with whom I do it — and I'm having a great time, I'm just supportive of everybody's sexuality — and I completely embrace people's happiness however they get it. And I think that's the statement, more than using myself as an example or whatever.

"About myself, I say that I've covered the waterfront. (Laughs) So I'm not denying anything. But also I don't want to reveal people who are in my life because it's an invasion of their privacy. And that's not right. Besides, most of them aren't even in the public life. But I'll put it this way — anything goes, as long as nobody's getting hurt." — **Sandra Bernhard, comic actress/writer and Madonna's best friend, in an interview in the November, 1989, issue of PLAYGIRL.**

"I didn't feel like a whole person without kids. I didn't feel it was right for gay people to be robbed of a sense of family." — **Jonathan Jarnig, a restaurant maitre d' who, along with his life partner Michael Pesce, are the adoptive parents of two children. There story is included in a special issue of NEWSWEEK about "The 21st Century Family."**

"We're really quite boring. Just homebodies. We're Ozzie and Harry." — **Michael Pesce, social worker and adoptive father of two Hispanic children.**

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## CLASSIFIED ADS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Zip .....  
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Signed .....

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

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