Those chaotic folks from 'A Girl's Guide to Chaos' Curtains, page 7



VOLUME 2, NUMBER 50

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

DECEMBER 15 - 21, 1989

Sasser signs on as co-sponsor

by JEFF ELLIS

Editor

Tennessee Senator Jim Sasser (D) last week added his name to the list of co-sponsors of the Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act. Along with Georgian Sam Nunn (D), the two senators bring to 56 the number of the bill's co-sponsors.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force legislative director Peri Jude Radecic, who had lobbied both Sasser and Nunn for several months, is optimistic the bill will pass during the 101st Congress, forestalling attempts to derail it by Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.).

"Getting Sasser and Nunn to co-sponsor this critical legislation is proof that ongoing constituent pressure works," Radecic said.

"When the local gay and lesbian community puts its mind to winning and exerts its political muscle, legislators are more likely to do the right thing."

NGLTF is now pressuring Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-Wash.) to set a firm date for action on the bill. The bill's advocates have until the end of the 101st Congress, scheduled to adjourn in the fourth quarter of 1990, to pass the bill under the current list of sponsors.

Last June, members of the House of Representatives passed the bill by a vote of 368-47. During 1988, House members passed the bill only to have it killed by a Helms-led move.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act directs the U.S. Department of Justice to compile and publish data on crimes based on prejudice in regards to race, religion, sexual orientation or sexual ethnicity. Lesbian and gay activists



Tennessee Senator Jim Sasser last week added his name to the list of co-sponsors of the hate crimes legislation now pending in the 101st Congress.

view the bill as an important first step in stopping incidents of "gay bashing."

NGLTF's anti-violence project last year reported about 7,250 cases of anti-gay violence and defamation, with a vast majority of the incidents going unreported because of fear of anti-gay stigmatization and discrimination.

An earlier NGLTF report indicated that one in four gay men and one in ten lesbians have been "punched, kicked or beaten" because of their sexual orientation. •

T-GALA plans changes for the 'gay '90s'

Membership to vote on proposed changes next month

by JEFF ELLIS

In a move designed to "energize the group and put it on course for the new decade," members of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) have announced plans for changes in the organization.

Among plans are a change in the group's bylaws that will create a board of directors under more centralized leadership, development of new programs and a fundraising plan directed toward the hiring of a full-time executive director.

T-GALA's membership will vote on the proposals at the January 8 meeting. If approved, the board of directors will be elected at that meeting.

"I think the timing for this change is perfect," said Penny Campbell, steering committee member. "We're coming up on an election year; Nashville's gay and lesbian community is stronger and more sophisticated than many realize; and we're entering not only a new decade but one dubbed "the gay '90s." If we can get ourselves organized politically, and we have the people and resources to do it, I believe we can make significant changes in Nashville on the issue of gay rights."

Campbell said T-GALA members had realized "it was not on its best course" and that led to the proposed changes.

"Now is the time to grow and move forward," said Nashville attorney Abby Rubenfeld, a T-GALA member. "We can do so with the strength through these revised bylaws and the proposed plan of action. Join us in that effort—come to the meeting in January, help finalize these bylaws, assist with the development of our new programs,

get involved. T-GALA — and the lesbian and gay community — can only be as strong and as active as we make it."

Campbell said steering committee members seem "very favorable" of the proposals, saying the action has attracted new people and new ideas to the organization.

T-GALA has 120 members on its rolls presently. At its peak, some 80 people attended regular monthly meetings, with only 10 attending during the group's lowest point.

The overall concept of the restructuring is to have T-GALA involved in legislative, educational, social and political activities, with a separate tax-exempt foundation added later.

Campbell said that a time-line has been developed and a fund-raising plan discussed to facilitate implementation of the proposals if adopted by the membership next month.

NGRA troubles mount

O'Leary resigns amid growing controversy

from STAFF REPORTS

In the wake of resignations and charges of mismanagement, Jean O'Leary last Friday submitted her own resignation as executive director of the San Francisco-based National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), one of only two public interest law firms specializing in lesbian/gay litigation.

O'Leary had held the position for eight years.

Leonard Graff, current legal director for NGRA, was appointed by the board to serve as interim chief executive officer.

William Pratt, current director of community affairs, will head operations at the firm's Los Angeles office.

In a press conference at NGRA's Castro Street offices, Richard White,

chair of the board of directors, said,
"It is with reluctance that NGRA's
Board of Directors accepts the resignation."

Despite White's public statements, O'Leary had been at the center of a reported power struggle among factions at the West Coast law firm.

Her resignation follows the forced resignations of staff attorneys Ben Schatz and Cynthia Goldstein — whom O'Leary blamed for squabbles — and the defections of six other key staff figures.

In her letter of resignation, O'Leary wrote, "I urge everyone to continue to support this valuable organization...I cherish NGRA for the years and years of challenges it has provided for me."

Disabilities Act covers PWAs

by JACKI MOSS

Staff Writer

If the Americans with Disabilities Act goes through as expected, for the first time, people with AIDS will be guaranteed protection against job discrimination and assured of access to transportation, movies, restaurants and other public places.

The bill passed solidly through the Senate and is currently under scrutiny by four House committees that will more than likely send it to a floor vote. Once passed by the House, it will go to President Bush for his signature.

The bill is being called by its supporters the "20th century Emancipation Proclamation for people with disabilities," and is considered one of the most far-reaching pieces of civil rights legislation ever and the most important considered by congress during this decade. Under the act, 1.5 million people with AIDS, as a part of the nation's 43 million people with disabilities, cannot legally be treated differently from anyone else who has an illness • continued on page 4

Dare this week

Eightsomething: The stories of our lives. Centerpiece, page 8.





Heroic film: Lawrence of Arabia. Screens, page 11.

Of all things, quotes from Tennessee! Loose Lips. page 16.



Individual and Couples Counseling Nashville, 615 329-1656

Green Hills Counseling Affiliates

William C. Compton, Ph.D. Licensed Clinical Psychologist Barbara C. Whiteman, Ed.D. Certified Professional Counselor

2400 Crestmoor Road, Suite 313 Nashville, TN 37215 (615) 386-7113



TRASBIN STONER

...an agent you can be comfortable with.

Nashville (615) 248-6161 Member, Million Dollar Sales Club

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

- Counseling
- · Reiki Therapy
- · Visualization for Health

524 East Iris Dr. Nashville, TN 37204 (615) 297-6995 320-8508

Kathy Douglas Georgia Douglas

TEAM Realty & Auction Co. 506 Tankersley Avenue Nashville 37211 (615) 333-3330 or 228-2189

ABBY R. RUBENFELD
ATTORNEY AT LAW

WATTS, UNDERWOOD & RUBENFELD SUITE 150 / 2000 RICHARD JONES ROAD NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37215 615 269-6778



Could you use some help?
Give me a call!
RITA ROXAS
Massage Therapist for Q
(615) 352-1369

Alternative Gift Shop
& Resource Center
It's never too early for stocking stuffers!
168 2nd Ave North,
Nashville, (615) 244-7346

DATES

Just like clockwork

Chattanooga

Sundays

Leshian & Gay CoDA Co-Dependents Anonymous. Reflections, Harrison. 12:30pm. Info (615) 267-7824.

Metropolitan Community Church Worship service, Unitarian Church. 6:30pm.

Monday

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

Thursdays

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

Saturdays

Gay/Lesbian AA No-smoke meeting. Unitarian Church. 7pm.

Clarksville

Thursdays

OSGL Austin Peay State Un iversity 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, norsmoking 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.

Friday

Gay Gratitude Group Alcoholics Anonymous. MCC / Knoxville, 1320 North Central.

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

Agape New Life Church Bible study. 7pm. Info (901) 276-1872.

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

Pheenix (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 services, 11am & 7pm. Info (901) 276-1872.

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

Mashville 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. Soher 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

Family Support Group Vanderbilt AIDS Project. Info (615) 322-AIDS.

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

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

Big events



Saturday, December 16
Healing Service 1320 N Central Av,
Knoxville. 11am. Info (615) 523-AIDS.

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 or 267-7824.

Benefit CHRISTMAS IN DIXIE, Wagettes benefit for Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC). At Barbara's, 1474 Madison, Memphis. Info (901) 458-AIDS.

Sunday, December 17

Brunch Black & White Men Together / Memphis. At Asian Palace, 861 S White Station Rd, Memphis. 11am-12:30pm. Tour TREASURES OF THE EARTH at the Pink Palace Museum. 1-4pm. Info (901) 452-5894

Fundraiser For Music City Sports Association. At Warehouse 28, Nashville. Info (615) 385-9689.

Monday, December 18

Potluck Holiday dinner, Memphis Gay Coalition. At Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison. Info (901) 324-GAYS.

Meeting Pride '90 organizational meeting and potluck. 1401 Cedar Ln, Nashville. 7pm. Info (615) 297-4293.

Friday, December 22

Benefit For Conductors PWA Fund. At Warehouse 28, 2529 Franklin Rd, Nashville. \$4. Info (615) 385-9689.

Saturday, December 23
HANUKKAH BEGINS

Sunday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

Monday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

Dance Gays and Lesbians in Recovery. Belmont United Methodist Church, 21st & Acklen Ave, Nashville. 9:30pm — 1am.lnfo (615) 292-6894.

GROSS GOUNTRY

compiled by MARK LAWRENCE

Staff Writer

PWA charged with aggravated battery

PARSONS, Kan. — A man who told two police he had AIDS and then spat on them has been charged with aggravated battery and making a terroristic threat.

The man, a 28-year-old Parsons resident, was originally stopped for carrying an open container of liquor in his car. Police took him into custody on additional charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and driving without a license. At the station, he allegedly threatened to kill the arresting officers, told them he had AIDS, and spat on them.

He was eventually charged with aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer, two counts of making a terroristic threat, possession of marijuana, and obstruction of the official duty of an officer. Country Prosecutor James Craig said the accused would have to test positive for the AIDS virus for officials to prove some of the charges.



Chip Rowan, Atlanta attorney and ACT UP member, is one of the organizers of two days of protest set for the Georgia capital city in January. — DARE FILE PHOTO

ACT UP plans Atlanta protests next month

ATLANTA — January 8 and 9 are marked as the dates for two major protests planned by the local chapter of AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP).

The first protest will be held at the Georgia State Capitol on the opening day of the 1990 Georgia legislature. Demonstrators will demand the repeal of laws against sodomy in 25 states. "Because these laws effectively define all lesbians and gay men as statutory felons, they promote violence against gay people and frighten everybody away from HIV testing, counseling, health care, and treatment," said Chip Rowan, action facilitator for the event

The second demonstration will call on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to expand the definition of AIDS beyond the current categories of "AIDS" and "AIDS Related Complex." Many state and local laws to assist people with AIDS apply only to those who meet the CDC definition.

Studies in New York City and Washington, D.C., indicate that 35 percent of people hospitalized with HIV-related disease in those cities do not meet the CDC definition. "Because people with AIDS much fight a variety of opportunistic infections, the CDC is woefully negligent in not tracking what these infections are and how often they occur," said Maxine Wolfe, action coordinator for the CDC demonstration.

Navy begins court martial of HIV+ sailor

SAN DIEGO — The U.S. Navy has begun court-martial proceedings against an HIV-positive sailor who allegedly had sex with another sailor without telling him about the infection.

The Navy has charged Petty Officer Third Class Theophilus Coleman with two counts of sodomy and misconduct and one count of threatening the sailor who was allegedly his sexual partner. The charges were brought after an unnamed sailor told Navy officials that he and Coleman had anal sex without a condom, and Coleman did not inform him that he was HIV-positive beforehand.

Coleman denies all of the charges. "The alleged sex act never took place," he said. "And second, the other individual knew I was HIV-positive, and we have witnesses to prove that."

Episcopals to fight AIDS discrimination

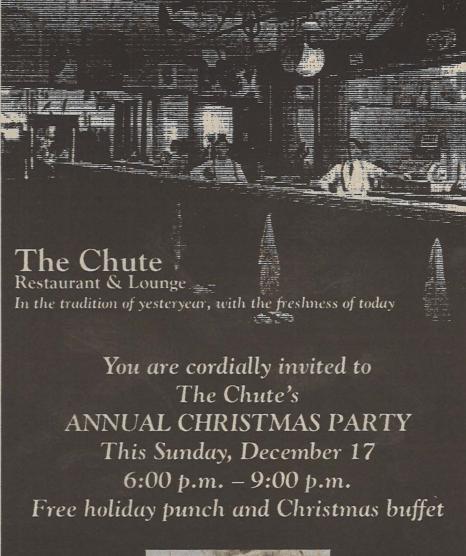
CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. — Delegates representing the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee passed a resolution calling on Episcopalians to fight discrimination against people with AIDS in housing, employment, medical care and insurance coverage.

The same convention passed a resolution opposing hard-core pornography. However, the delegates refused to give specific support to the Nashville Coalition Against Pornography. Another resolution banned the use of non-biodegradable products, such as styrofoam cups, at Episcopal churches in the diocese.

PWA files suit against former employer

HOUSTON — A man with AIDS has filed suit against his insurer and his former employer after they changed his group health insurance plan to lower the lifetime cap on AIDS-related claims from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000.

John McGann, an employee of H&H Music Co. since 1982, began submitting medical claims to his employer's group health plan after he was diagnosed with AIDS in 1987. In July 1988, the company canceled the group medical plan and replaced it with a new plan which imposed a limit of \$5,000 on AIDS-related claims, while leaving the ceiling for other illnesses at \$1,000,000. McGann claims these actions violate the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as well as several state laws.





Later that evening, join us for
The DENA KAYE Christmas Show
10:30 p.m. and Midnight
and the introduction of her new video
Fairytale Maiden

The Chute's the place for Western dance.

Join the crowd Tuesday evenings,

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

for free Western dancing lessons with Jim.

Holiday shopping at The General Store at The Chute In addition to our famous custom leather, we have many items on hand for stocking stuffers, including our exclusive new Leather Teddies and the 1990 Damron Guide.

The Chute 2535 Franklin Road, Nashville (615) 297-4571



MISS DAVIDSON COUNTY
PAGEANT
POSTPONED UNTIL JANUARY
WE'LL ANNOUNCE THE NEW
DATE NEXT WEEK!

CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 25, 1 PM

CHECK OUR
NEW MENU!
KITCHEN OPEN 11 AM – 2 AM

EVERY DAY

• COCKTAILS 2-FOR-1 4 PM -7 PM • \$1 SCHNAPPES 11 PM - MIDNIGHT

We are everywhere.



Chattanooga

Clarksville

Organization for Support of Gays & Lesbians
 The Office

Knoxville

Davis-Kidd Booksellers

Gay & Lesbian Student Union/UT
 Metropolitan Community Church
 Peppertree

• Traditions

Memphis

• J-Wag's • Maggie's Pharm

Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center
 Memphis Lambda Center

Tobacco Corner Newsroom • WKRB in Memphis
 Nashville
 Al's • Book Oasis • Chez Colette • The Chute
 Crazy Cowboy II • Davis-Kidd Booksellers
 Dragonfly Books • Five Points Depot

Gas Lite Lounge • It's a Scream • Jewel Medley
• Juanita's • The Jungle



Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly

THE GAYEST EVENT OF THE SEASON



Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus in Concert!

Chris Cinque's "Growing Up Queer in America"

Emcee Melinda Tremaglio from Hollywood!

Saturday, December 16, 7:00 p.m. War Memorial Auditorium • Nashville

Tickets: Main Floor Balcony(preferred seating)

Advance \$10 \$13 At the door: \$12 \$15

Reception with the entire cast following the concert \$25 (includes admission to the performance)

Tickets available at all Ticketmaster locations.

Tickets available at all Ticketmaster locations.

Telecharge MC/VISA 741-2787 or 1-800-333-4TIX.

All proceeds go to benefit Gay Cable Network/Nashville. For more information call 254-8250.

AIDS TPDATE

compiled by **JACKI MOSS**Staff Writer

Vaccine Breakthrough

There may be hope for an AIDS vaccine if studies from Tulane University are applicable to HIV. According to researchers at Tulane, a vaccine made of whole, inactivated simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) protects rhesus monkeys from SIV infection.

Although the SIV is different from HIV, almost 50% of their genetic pattern is the same, which gives researchers cautious hope that the mechanism used to vaccinate monkeys from SIV infection will be a similar one to vaccinate humans from HIV infection. They hope that by learning what works to develop an SIV vaccine, they will be able to use the same or similar mechanism to develop an HIV vaccine.

The study injected dead SIV into monkeys and then 13 months later they were injected with an extremely powerful dose of live SIV. The vaccinated monkeys seemed to be able to protect themselves from the retrovirus, while the non-inoculated monkeys all died within seven months of infection.

The mechanism by which the vaccine is thought to work is very similar to the polio vaccine developed by Jonas Salk. Salk is also working on a vaccine for AIDS, as well.

Although this study is very promising, there are many problems to overcome before the creation of an AIDS vaccine for humans and researchers predict that it will still be years before an AIDS vaccine reaches the public.

Hypercin study

A report in AIDS TREATMENT NEWS of a survey about the benefits and side effects of hypercin was recently published. Hypercin is an antiviral used by many people who have AIDS as a medicinal herb.

The survey by AIDS TREATMENT NEWS noted that, "The bottom line, in our view, can be seen in the lists of side effects and the benefits. 27 of the 112 respondents reported side effects, but most of them were minor; very few required stopping the hypercin. But the benefits—reported by 65 of the 112—are usually significant. Some directly affect the quality of life, and other suggest improvement in underlying health. Most are benefits that persons with HIV would want to have..."

As with any treatment or drug, you should consult your physician to determine the possible benefits and/or problems prior to beginning.

...disabilities act

• continued from page 1

that is more "acceptable" such as cancer or multiple sclerosis.

Because the bill includes provisions for people with AIDS, hot debate is expected in the House generated by small businesses and other detractors who are concerned about the financial burden of compliance.

There are also questions about precisely how much protection the bill will provide for people with AIDS.

Even in the face of what may be vocal opposition, the bill is expected to pass because it is backed by more than 200 sponsors in the House. It also has the support of the

Some fed \$ reinstated

A budget reconciliation bill passed by Congress before it adjourned for the holidays replaces some of the AIDS budget funds lost in October by the Gramm-Rudmann-Hollings Act and also mandates that recently unemployed people with AIDS may retain group health insurance up to 29 months.

Although in previous years, AIDS was exempt from budget cuts, this year AIDS took the automatic five percent reduction along with other federal programs, resulting in an \$80 million cut from 1990's \$1.6 billion AIDS budget.

Under the new provision, this time period during which former employees who leave their jobs because of illness may retain group health insurance is extended from 18 months to 29 months. This is significant because it generally takes two years to be eligible for Medicaid programs.

Helms delays AIDS drug bill

Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) threatened a filibuster before Congress adjourned for the holidays and effectively delayed a long-term program to provide proven AIDS treatment drugs to indigent people with HIV and/or AIDS.

Rather than face the possibility of a protracted session of Helms' vocal barrage, the Congress shelved the bill for the session. Titled the Low Income Treatment Authorization Program (LITAP), the bill would allow matching grants to participating states to provide AIDS drugs to AIDS patients who do not qualify for Medicaid. The 1990 Health and Human Services appropriation bill gives \$30 million to continue the current federal AIDS drug subsidy program for 1990, but the LITAP would provide a three-year authorization.

Is complacency setting in?

Leaders on World AIDS Day December 1, shared concerns that some segments of the population may be becoming complacent about AIDS prevention. Noting a three-fold increase in AIDS in women and a doubling of AIDS cases in teenagers, officials are hoping that more attention will be directed toward those groups of people and they will be targeted by AIDS education projects in the future to help avoid another surge in the number of people who contract the virus.

Bush administration and over 200 civil rights and advocacy groups.

In addition to protection for people with AIDS, the bill also declares that alcoholism and drug addiction are medical problems and not signs of moral turpitude and that people who are attempting to overcome their illnesses are protected under the law as well.

Both Tennesseans in the Senate, democrats
Jim Sasser and Al Gore have, after an intensive
lobbying effort, have signed on as co-sponsors of the legislation. A Capitol Hill source
told *Dare* earlier that constituent lobbying by
members of the gay/lesbian community was
instrumental in his signing on.

LOGAL G O L O

compiled from STAFF REPORTS

Chattanooga

Alliance holiday fete Saturday

The recently-organized Chattanooga Gay and Lesbian Alliance will host its holiday gala this Saturday night, December 16, at Christ Episcopal Church, 543 McCallie Avenue.

A cash bar and free hors d'oevres will be available at the event, which also will feature a dance. Persons attending are asked to bring a toy to donate the Chattanooga Fire Department's annual toy drive for underprivileged children or to make a nominal cash donation.

"We're trying to keep things sort of lowkey," said a spokesperson for the Alliance. "If we have 50 people, we'll consider it a huge success. We just think it's wonderful to be having an event for the gay and lesbian community in Chattanooga and to finally be organizing." •

Clarksville

New show opens at the Roxy

The comedy dick whittington and his cat is the holiday offering at Clarksville's Roxy Theatre, playing through Friday, December

The company, located in Clarksville's refurbished movie house, is known throughout the area for its varied theatrical offerings. For reservations, call (615) 645-7699. The show runs Fridays and Saturdays through December 23 and will run Tuesday through Friday, December 26-29. •

Knoxville

GLSU prepares baskets for PWAs

Members of the Gay and Lesbian Student Union at the University of Tennessee are collecting donations for holiday baskets they are preparing for persons with AIDS in the Knoxville area.

aids Response Knoxville (aRK) is not planning any specific fund-raising for the holidays, but according to Charles "Corky" Reece, executive director of the community services organization, donations will be accepted.

For further details about GLSU's holiday projects, call (615) 595-8686. Details about continuing projects at aRK are available by phoning (615) 523-AIDS. •

Memphis

Gay chorus forming

Singers are being sought to help form the Memphis Gay Men's Chorus.

An initial planning meeting has not yet been scheduled, but organizers are developing a list of interested individuals. To sign-up, visit the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center at 1291 Madison Avenue.

Among topics to be discussed at that first meeting will be a formal name for the group and selection of a director and accompanist. Some 14 people had signed up, according to December's GAZE.

"For those of you who cannot come out, there will be ample events geared only for our segment of the community, and we may be able to settle on a generic name to ease our transition into the Memphis scene," said Center president Ken Horton. •

Murfreesboro

Auditions set for February show

Auditions for the Murfreesboro Little Theatre's February production of Christopher Frye's poetic comedy, the LADY'S NOT FOR BURNING, will be held January 6 and 7 at 7 p.m. at the theatre, located at 700 Ewing Boule-

The show's plot concerns the Salem witchcraft trials. Roles are available for eight men and three women, as well as jobs involving technical and production aspects of the theatre. The show, directed by Steve Dees, opens February 23.

For more information, call MLT at (615) 893-9825.

Nashville

Angel Trees for PWAs

This year, for the first time ever, PWAs will be among those people helped by the Salvation Army Angel Trees in Nashville-area malls. According to Gene Copello, director of the Vanderbilt AIDS Project (VAP), you may designate that your angel on the tree go to the assistance of a PWA.

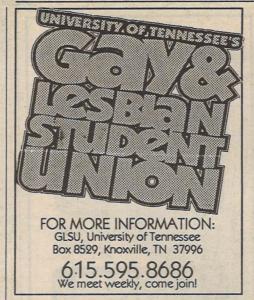
VAP worked closely with the Salvation Army to make this come about, Copello said, "and we are very pleased to make available this opportunity for people to help people with AIDS." .

GCN reschedules 'Two-Stepping' for January show

Gay Cable Network/Nashville has announced that TEXAS TWO STEPPING WITH THE GIRLS, originally scheduled to appear with the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus on December 16 at War Memorial Auditorium, has been postponed until January 27, 7 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Boulevard. For details, call (615) 254-8250.



Cast members of the Atlanta company of TEXAS TWO-STEPPING WITH THE GIRLS WIll perform in Nashville next month, presented as a fund-raiser for Gay Cable Network/Nashville. — DARE FILE PHOTO







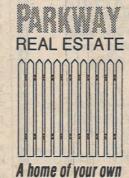
A home of your own.

SEASON'S GREETINGS from all of us at Parkway Real Estate. Let us help you start the New Year off as a home owner. Just think, for \$100.00 down plus closing costs, you can own your own home. Many homes, condos and duplexes to choose

- · Veterans: No down payment, no closing costs. You can buy a home without spending a dime.
 - Bankruptcy no problem....
- · Investors: 97% financing available. Let us show you how to buy income property with a positive cash flow. Buy property that is priced 10, 20, even

\$30,000 below market value.

- · You can buy with a friend or loved one. Our policy is one of absolute non-discrimination. We have numerous financial institutions to choose from.
- · Beautiful 3 BR, 2 bath, eat-in kitchen, large den with fireplace. Lots of storage, 2car carport with fenced yard. Owner transferred. Must sell. Assumable FHA loan. Possible lease-purchase.
- · 3 BR, 2 bath, 1550 square feet. Near the lake. No down payment. \$365 / month. Maintenance free.
- · Locator service: Numerous apartments, houses and condos for rent. No charge to you.
- · We are one of the largest and best property management companies in Nashville. We handle everything from A to



Wayne Brown Ilene Rose Home (615) 331-5802 Home (615) 834-6535

PARKWAY REAL ESTATE

(615) 360-2320 or (615) 360-3029 1321 Murfreesboro Rd, Suite 110 Nashville, TN 37217

Myth #2: Chiropractors aren't really doctors.

This old saw has been floating around for years. The truth is that chiropractors must complete at least six years of specialized training, earning a doctorate. A general practitioner is a doctor. And so is a chiropractor. Insurance accepted.

KOWALSKI CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC Dr. Deborah Kowalski, Chiropractic Physician

> 108 Harding Place, Belle Meade (615) 352-1234



1214 Highway 96 E, Franklin, TN (In the First Tennessee Bank Building) (615) 790-3686

JAMAICA. The perfect holiday gift.

Tennessee's first all-gay tour! \$985 includes all this: Airfare from Atlanta April 28 - May 3, 1990 Meals . Wine with lunch & dinner All bar drinks & cigarettes Horse riding • Nude beach • Sunfish sailing • Scuba diving & lessons Discothèque • Piano bar Low add-on airfares from your airport! Space limited • \$100 holds your spot (615) 320-5202 TN outside Nashville 1-800-548-1031

EMBASSY TRAVEL 210 25th Ave North, Nashville

Black to basics. The Milano brietrase, in black vingl \$38.



Write Track date minder in black leather, \$88



Milano dopp case in black ringl, \$16

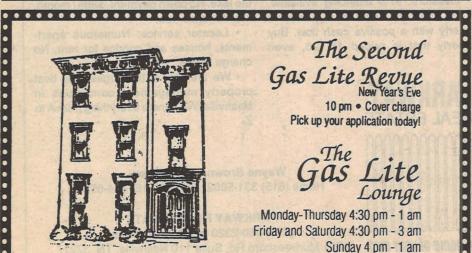
You know what you want.

Our gift registry lets your friends know, too. It's simple, it's subtle - and it's fruitcake-proof.



STREET SMART

2416 Elliston Place • Nashville [Across from Rotier's] Order by phone (615) 329-9337



The Second Gas Lite Revue
New Year's Eve 10 pm . Cover charge

Pick up your application today!

Monday-Thursday 4:30 pm - 1 am Friday and Saturday 4:30 pm - 3 am Sunday 4 pm - 1 am

167 1/2 Eighth Avenue North • 615 254-1278

GURTAINS

It's a Ray Conniff boliday

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES. Concept and original lyrics by Mac Pirkle, original music by Stan Tucker. Directed by Mac Pirkle. Tennessee Repertory Theatre. TPAC's Polk Theatre. Through December 23. reviewed by JEFF ELLIS

Fdito

Christmas MEMORIES

TENNESSEE REPERTORY Theatre's recreation of last season's delightful holiday musical, CHRISTMAS MEMORIES, is something of a disappointment - sort of like receiving a beautifully-wrapped package with underwear inside.

Schmaltzy and sentimental, CHRISTMAS

MEMORIES promises to be the perfect musical accompaniment for the hectic holiday season, but somehow lacks a heart. Many of the sentiments ring hollow and the 14-member cast never seem able to forget they are on stage.

Performed with all the charm of an Osmond family Christmas special, the show is a compilation of traditional holiday songs and evocative

original pieces by Mac Pirkle and Stan Tucker. Despite some winning individual performances, Tucker's expert musical direction and the lovely set by Brian J. Laczko and Sam Craig, this year's production seems a pale imitation of last year's premiere.

What this year's edition of CHRISTMAS MEMO-RIES lacks in warmth and heart, the cast makes up for with insincerity.

Essentially, the musical recalls the memories of holidays past as a group of friends gather for a Christmas Eve dinner. Opening with "Welcome to Our Household," the tone

is set for an evening of warmth and celebration. Unfortunately, the cast performs as if they are presenting a Ray Conniff Christmas: a homogenized, watered-down, somewhat stereotypical evening.

Bah, humbug! Do I sound like Scrooge or what? I loved last year's show, so maybe I was

> expecting too much from this year's version (which includes several of the original cast members). Although some changes were made, including the addition of a wonderful scene with young Marin Miller (the scene-stealing daughter of TRT's Myke Mueller and Mary Jane Harvill), what is left is a competently performed show that lacking energy.

> As in last year's production, the Ricky

Russell-led rock and roll version of "Rudolph, The Red Nosed Reindeer," is the highlight of Act One, along with Ginger Newman's lovely performance of "The Christmas Song." and she opens Act Two with the hauntingly beautiful "Huron Christmas Carol."

That's followed by the best number of the evening, Barry Scott and Kim Fleming's performance of "Away in a Manger." Scott and Fleming give the ages-old song their own signature flourishes (Fleming's voice has never sounded more beautiful), turning it into • continued on page 12

An elegant boliday gift

THE ROYAL FAMILY. By Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman. Directed by Mel Toombs. Actor's Playhouse of Nashville. Through December 31.

reviewed by JEFF ELLIS

IN A PRODUCTION that fairly brims with style and wit, director Mel Toombs brings the classic Edna Ferber-George S. Kaufman comedy, THE ROYAL FAMILY, to the intimate stage of Nashville's Actor's Playhouse as a wonderful holiday gift for mid-state audiences.

An elegant evocation of '20s style and sophistication, Toombs and his talented cast interpret the timeless script impeccably, bringing the eccentric and flamboyant Cavendish family (the royal family of Broadway) to life with an insouciant flair. Performed amid designer Rick Harrell's amazingly sumptuous setting - a collection of gorgeous antiques and period pieces set in royal purples and plums, opulent greens and jades - and in period costumes that recall the splendid fashions of the era, the cast captures the essence of Ferber and Kaufman's characters, imbuing them with contemporary styling while retaining the character's '20s appeal.

Heading the cast, as family matriarch

Fanny Cavendish, is the immensely talented Anne Tonelson, one of the city's finest character actresses. Tonelson herself may not realize the breadth of her talent, but her audiences certainly do. Each new character she plays is treated with individual care and attention. Her Fanny eschews the term "elderly" for "elegant," and manages to get off some of the legendary writing team's most brilliant zingers ("Isn't that hat a little ingenue, Kitty?" she asks her sister-in-law).

Tonelson's stellar performance sets the standard for the rest of the cast who rise admirably to the challenge (much like the Cavendishes would, I'd like to think) from the leading actors to those in the smallest of parts, presenting a superb display of ensemble act-

Music coming from a vintage victrola effectively sets the mood for the evening's performance, one that's marked by surprising

continued on page 12

CURTAINS

The secrets of Chaos

by JEFF ELLIS

WITH THE FINAL CURTAIN ringing down Saturday night on the Nashville production of Cynthia Heimel's A GIRL'S GUIDE TO CHAOS, the five cast members and director Mark Cabus are still scratching their heads,

wondering what all the fuss is about.

Since opening three weeks ago, the contemporary comedy about '80s-something manners and morés has set box-office records at Actor's Playhouse, the local stage for nontraditional, experimental and sometimes zany theatre. With curtain at 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, the cast have found themselves performing before sold-out audi-

ences, earning rounds of applause and hearty laughter from the latenight crowds.

So what's the secret?

Much of the credit goes to writer Heimel, who has fashioned an amusing, though altogether realistic, tale of love, sex and dating in modern times. The script is a collection of monologues that fairly zing with crackling one-liners ("A friend asked for a copy of the script so she could use some of the lines on her own," said actress

Edsonya Charles, who plays Cleo.) that tell a universal story of romantic woes.

Credit for the local production goes to actor/director Mark Cabus who, after seeing the show performed in Chicago, began to share news of the show with friends here. One thing led to another and before long the creative team at Actor's Playhouse (artistic director Dennis Ewing and producer Janet Claire) called Cabus with an offer to direct the show.

"The show has such universal appeal," Cabus said. "It's not a man-bashing show. The women in this show are smart career women, they're not neurotic and really don't have a lot of problems."

But what about the crowds?

"The reaction has been more than I ever imagined could happen," Cabus said. "We had a great turnout for opening night. It could be because the people in this cast have good reputations in this town."

Cabus' cast includes Virginia Burke in the pivotal role of Cynthia, a magazine columnist looking for love in all the wrong places, and her cohorts Cleo, a scientist (Charles), and Rita, a sculptor (Reece Faw). They're joined onstage by Mark DelaBarre, as Cynthia's exboyfriend Jake, and René Copeland as Lurene, a young married woman with a myriad of part-time jobs and an experienced eye.

Although during the show's run she's been known as Cynthia to her audiences, Burke says she's not that much like her onstage alter ego:

"Cynthia's much more extraverted and blunt. I think I'm much more subdued," Burke said. "I think I'd like to be more like her.

WITH THE FINAL CURTAIN ringing And I suppose that it some way Cynthia's an own Saturday night on the Nashville pro-extension of myself."

Faw, on the other hand, said she was "amazed" by director Cabus' sensitivity and his deft casting abilities.

"I had prepared to audition for Cynthia, but he had me read for Rita instead," she laughed. "Rita and I have so much in common. She doesn't care what other people think and will say exactly what she's thinking. I'm the same way."

Charles credits the fact that she was teamed with Faw during auditions as the key to her casting coup.

"Mark sent us out to work on the scene in the aerobics studio and we tried to think of ways to make it better," Charles explained. "Sometimes during an audition you're only going to be as good as the person you're auditioning with. Luckily, Reece was wonderful."

Reviews have paid much attention to the play's language there's a fair smattering of four-letter words and invectives,

you know, the way "real" people talk — and that may have attracted some audiences. But Charles is not so sure.

"The reviews have helped. I think when people read it wasn't family material, they wanted to come see it for themselves. They came ready to hear some trash," she said. "And it's a funny show!"

"I've been perplexed myself by the size of the audiences," said Copeland. "We've all been networking and talking it up to our friends, so I guess word of mouth is the best explanation for the crowds."

Her character, Lurene, is much like Copeland herself — a busy young mother, scooting from job to job. As the mother of two boys, aged 2 and 4, and the wife of a director, shes says, "I am the person with children who does a lot of part-time jobs just like Lurene. She's the most centered person in the show. She may seem otherwise, but she knows what she wants. It's fun to try to be the calmest member of the cast."

For DelaBarre, the sole male in the cast, it's been "great working with all these friends. There's no pay involved, so it's all for love."

Playing Jake, as well as all those other men in the Nashville dating pool, DelaBarre (happily married to actress Su Hyatt for three years) can identify with the show's plot and machinations: "Personally, I've always used comedy as a means of covering up insecurities, much like Jake does in the show. It's been cathartic for me, because friends and peers who have come to see it have said it's nice to finally hear me saying real words. It's a funny show to do and a funny one to listen to."





OPEN SOON

The work goes merrily along...



Good things come to those who wait. It won't be too much longer before we'll be taking the wraps off your favorite holiday present – the finest new facility in Nashville.

JOURNEY is pleased to announce Rich Huber

(from Kurts in Philadelphia, the largest gay club on the East Coast) as our disc jockey. Rich will amaze you with his mixes. Be prepared for the best.

909 Church Street, Nashville Phone (615) 248-6352

Free parking at Allright Parking lot next to old Nashville Gas building. Street parking is also available (100 spaces within one block of bar).

1990

CENTERPIECE

The stories of our lives

NLY AFTER historians have had their opportunities to dissect and examine the 1980s will we know just what the decade has meant to members of the lesbian and gay community. In retrospect, we find a generally mixed bag of happenings and events that helped to shape our lives during the decade, some marked by euphoria and joy, others marred by sadness and desperation.

by JEFF ELLIS

It seems appropriate that in the decade's final year we celebrated a milestone in our community's history — the 20th anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Riots, viewed by many as the start of the modern gay rights movement — while awaiting anxiously "our decade," the gay '90s

By bringing the events of the decade into sharper focus, we find our perspectives changing, our attitudes altered by past actions and lessons learned.

In determining the top news stories of the '90s — insofar as the lesbian/gay community is concerned — we found ourselves considering many stories previously considered milestones. Sometimes that proved the fleeting nature of life, while at others it proved life's constants. Often, it appeared that for every step taken forward, there was movement backward. At other times, the lesbian/gay movement remained stationary.

However, a number of events do stand out in our minds as we reminisce about the '90s, the ones which the historians will recall when their retrospectives are compiled.

 Without any doubt, the most important news event of the decade can be described with one word:
 "AIDS."

Without warning, the disease began to be found among the gay male population, spreading its way



Part of the Tennessee contingent at the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. — DARE FILE PHOTO

across the American landscape, eschewing the phrase "the gay plague" to become known by its true colors: a killer disease that refuses to play favorites. Entering the American lexicon, much in the same way as polio and cancer had earlier, AIDS presented a medical mystery of the highest order.

As early as 1980, symptoms and diseases began to be reported in sufficient numbers to warrant informal discussion among the medical communities of San Francisco and New York and the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control. According to a CDC report, "In June, 1981, the first cases of the illnesses now known as AIDS were reported from Los Angeles in five young men diagnosed with Pneumocystis carnii pneumonia (PCP) and other opportunistic infections..."

Between 1981 and 1987, some 50,000 cases of AIDS were reported to the CDC. And since December, 1987, another 50,000 have been reported as the decade dwindles to its finale.

Tennessee's first cases were reported in 1982, and there are, as of October 31, 1989, 956 cases reported in the state. Thus far, there have been 549 verified deaths, with 95% of those men.

Scientists and researchers continue to battle the disease, working feverishly to find a cure, to develop a vaccine. Their battles have been undermined by inadequate funding and lackadaisical public opinion.

AIDS has changed the American way of life—lesbian, gay, bisexual, straight—in the way no other event or malady has ever done. But in its own convoluted way, it has provided its positives as well: increased volunteerism, compassion and politicization.

From the depths of despair brought about by the specter of AIDS, the lesbian and gay community in the United States came together in Washington on a chill October day in 1987 in the largest civil rights demonstration in the history of the nation's capital.

• The March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in October, 1987, helped to galvanize the community on a national level, filtering its way down to the state and local levels. Crowd estimates ranged from the 200,000 reported by the National Park Service to a more reasonable, and certainly more likely, 750,000, from March organizers themselves. The 1987 March far surpassed a similar 1979 effort that attracted some 200,000.

Coming from all over the country in a united effort to make their voices heard, their concerns known, lesbians, gay men and their supporters gathered in Washington for the historic March and rally. Mention the March to any of those who attended and you can still see its spirit alive and well in their eyes.

• After a heady experience during the historic March on Washington, Tennessee lesbian and gay activism appeared to "come out of the closet" in the months that followed.

Perhaps the most tangible results of 1987's heady activism

was the resurgence of the Nashville-based Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Coali-

tion (now known as the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance), the continued success of the Memphis Gay Coalition (which led the way for the creation of the recently-opened Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center), the newly-organized Chattanooga Gay and Lesbian Alliance, East Tennessee Alternative Lifestyles (et al) and the student organizations at Austin Peay State University, Vanderbilt University, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Middle Tennessee State University and at Memphis State University.

The euphoria of that October weekend was not enough to sustain Knoxville's Ten Percent, which disbanded earlier this year, citing a lack of enthusiasm and interest for the cause.

As with any movement, leaders come and go, followers may or may not show up. Some people formerly involved in political activism have redirected their energies to the fight against AIDS, others to the battle for women's rights, others to the prochoice movement and still others to private pursuits.

• During 1988 and 1989, Tennessee's antiquated sodomy law became the focus of debate in the state legislature as the Tennessee Sentencing Commission — charged by the general assembly with the task of removing "archaic language" from the state's criminal code — proposed changes in the statute concerning same-sex acts.

Signed into law by Gov. Ned McWherter in June, the changes in the code were adopted by the legislature earlier this year.

The statute concerning the state's "sodomy law" was changed from a prohibition on "crimes against nature" to a more specific ban on all homosexual acts. The changes de-

criminalized heterosexual acts and reduced homosexual acts to a Class C misdemeanor, carrying a sentence of not more than 30 days and/or a fine of \$25.

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

Tennessee activists had hoped the sodomy law would be completely stricken from the code, but after an abortive lobbying effort by

eightysomething

the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance, the reduction from a felony to a misdemeanor was considered a victory by some.

• Some 20 years after the nowfamous Stonewall Riots signaled the beginning of the modern lesbian and gay civil rights movement, members of the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year gave their approval to the **Hate Crimes Statistics Act**, a measure still pending in the Senate.

Passage of the bill in the House came just weeks after the release of new hate crimes statistics compiled by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Anti-Violence Project, which indicated that criminal activity directed at lesbians and gay men continues to be a problem nationwide. Throughout the decade, new statistics from NGLTF gave credence to the argument that anti-gay hate crimes were growing at an exponential rate.

In 1988, more than 7,000 incidents of anti-lesbian/gay violence and harassment were reported, an increase of almost 250 over the previous year's numbers.

• Throughout the '80s, litigation involving lesbians and gays in the military continued to mount. Following the lead of Air Force Sgt. Leonard Matlovich (who died of AIDS during his decade), who during the '70 waged an unsuccessful fight to change his dishonorable discharge to an honorable one, a number of individuals fought for their right to serve a country which seemed to disavow them.

The names of Perry Watkins, Miriam Ben-Shalom and Joseph Steffan have become rallying cries and the focus of pride among members of the community as they have struggled to claim their rightful place in military society and in soci-

Dare

ety as a whole.

Late in 1989, two reports commissioned by the Pentagon concluded that the American military should reexamine its policies which discriminate against lesbians and gay men. Calling them "wasteful, flawed and offensive," the Pentagon rejected the two reports.

Meanwhile, Watkins, Ben-Shalom, Steffan and company, continue to battle the military hierarchy.

 On a different battlefield, yet still confined by courtroom parameters, a case involving a woman fighting for her lover's welfare captured the attention and the imaginations of the lesbian/gay community and focused public attention on the inequities and injustices suffered by same-sex couples.

The nightmare for lovers Karen Thompson and Sharon Kowalski began in 1983 when Kowalski was seriously injured in an automobile accident. When Kowalski's parents learned of the true nature of the two women's relationship, they forbade Thompson from having any contact with their daughter.

Beginning in 1984, Thompson had pursued legal action, seeking proper medical care for her lover, as well as the right to visit her and play an active role in her life. Donald Kowalski had refused to allow visits between the two women since

In order to sway public opinion, and to raise funds for the protracted legal battle, Thompson told their story around the country, vividly retelling her story, reliving the horrors of forced separation and relating a fable for our times.

Finally, in February, 1989, the two women were reunited. Donald Kowalski has resigned as his daughter's guardian and Thompson has filed for guardianship.

And on a more personal level, the two women have begun to become reacquainted, their story of love and courage continuing to inspire thousands.

• The conundrum of the Thompson-Kowalski case is indicative of a growing concern across the nation regarding domestic partnerships—the "marriage" of two persons of the same sex.

During legislative and legal efforts throughout the United States, domestic partnerships and the protection of rights for same-sex couples has celebrated victories (a New York court ruling which said same-sex couples may be considered families) and suffered defeats,



Massachussetts Rep. Gerry Studds — DARE FILE PHOTO

(the recent voter rejection of domestic partnership legislation in San Francisco.)

 The image exemplified by the struggles of Thompson and Kowalski provides yet another lesbian/ gay profile in courage.

Often, it seems these tales are commonplace. Perhaps the most widely reported by the media were the coming out stories told by two Massachussetts members of Congress. Rep. Gerry Studds, exposed for an illicit relationship with a 16-year-old male congressional page during his first term in Congress, was forced to acknowledge his homosexuality during the '80s.

Faced with re-election battles since his disclosure, Studds has been returned to Capitol Hill by wide margins by voters in his home district.

Following Studds' exposure, Rep. Barney Frank, fearing the potential political death such a media carnival could bring about, came forward of his own accord and told the public that he, too, is gay.

In 1989, Frank, considered one of the leading liberal lights in the House, became embroiled in controversy after a male prostitute made accusations of improprieties. He is under investigation by the House Ethics Committee.

• As Massachussetts voters reiterated their faith in two gay members of congress, the Bay State's legislature earlier this year approved the lesbian and gay civil rights bill which prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, credit, insurance and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation. Gov. Michael Dukakis signed the bill into law last month.

In 1982, Wisconsin lawmakers passed similar legislation, becoming the first state in the union to guarantee equal rights to all its citizens.

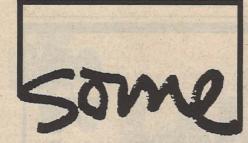
Earlier this year, the Iowa House of Representatives passed gay-rights legislation, only to see the bill voted down by the state senate.

AND WHAT OF the '90s? A concerted effort by lesbian and gay activists, working in concert with other human rights groups, could bring about sweeping changes in our lives. Or political infighting could spell an end to activism.

Only time will tell.







The curtain has risen on a great new production.

Nashville's Onstage Monthly
Free! Ask for it at your theatre or bookstore.

2-for-1 Happy Hour daily 4–8 p.m.



Dine ▼ Dance at 1713 Church Street, Nashville

A very personal gift, from us to you.



Coming soon from Dare.



Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly

GIFTS FOR GARDENERS (and their friends!)



English Watering Cans \$18 - \$47



English Gardening Spades



Mahogany Versailles Planters \$60 - \$150



Goat-Skin Gloves



Zinc Garden Markers 25/\$7.50



English Gardening Forks

BOTANICA

6006 Charlotte Pike, Nashville, TN 37209 615 to 356 to 6008

SOLERLBELLS • BEE SKEP • GARDENING BOOKS • TRELLIAGE / TOPIARY FRAMES • GOATSKIN GLOVES •

PAGES

Semiotics and the male nude

BRUCE WEBER. Bruce Weber. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1989. 192 pages. reviewed by **JOE MAROHL**Staff Writer

Weber's documentary eye

not only urges us to

admire singer Chris Isaak's

Ricky Nelson good looks,

but shows him flinching

at the caress of his

over-made-up

but loving mom and

the kitschy idolatry

of the living room decor...

NOBODY BELIEVES ME when I say I collect photographs of naked men because I'm interested in semiotics.

You've got your point, I have to admit. I really do enjoy talking about how the idea of male beauty has changed along with changes in the culture and how, through gesture and camera angle, recent male physique photographs portray masculinity as more passive than earlier pictures did.

But, deep down, you and I both know

there's nothing quite like a provocative composition of muscle and light and, possibly, sea foam. Even as a child, before I ever heard the word "semiotics," I collected photos of Gard-McCay. Robert Conrad and Sean Flynn without shirts on, scissored out of PHOTOPLAY and SILVER SCREEN.

So, crucify me. But anyway,

there's a new book by the master of male fashion/physique photography, Bruce Weber, he of the famous Calvin Klein ads, need I remind? And what is more, this book, eponymously titled BRUCE WEBER, is perhaps his most distinguished to date.

In 1983, Twelvetrees Press produced an expensive book of Weber photographs, a classic collection of pictures of brothers, lifeguards, clammers, competitive divers, sailors, Matt Dillon and Jeff Aquilon, a Weber discovery who was God from roughly 1978 to roughly 1982.

Three years ago, Knopf produced a handsome, but overpriced, oversized paperback, o RIO DE JANEIRO, a chronicle of kickboxing and sex in Brazil. Weber donated profits from the book to AIDS research, which raised some eyebrows because the photos celebrate, said the eyebrows, just the sort of lifestyle that was responsible for the epidemic in the first place. The little-known jiu jitsu risk group, apparently.

Weber's new book could easily take for its title the name of the Cecil Howard statue which appears on the cover: American Youth. In this book, Weber combines, startlingly, images of prepubescents (all fully clothed, thank you, Miss Helms) and images of nude models displaying their anatomies more candidly than is usual in Weber's work.

Moreover, the book reminds us of two things:

One, that Weber is a documentarist, not just a fashion photographer for cologne and men's briefs.

Two, that Weber works very definitely in the tradition of Diane Arbus, who taught and encouraged Weber at the beginning of his

Recently, critics have accused Weber, for his Calvin Klein photographs mainly, of aesthetic fascism. His models are almost always clean-cut, white American types — Little Richard's is the only black or "femme" face in the new book.

But looking at the book closely, one sees that Weber's view of his American Icons is not uncritical. The dancing extras in bikini briefs

and Roman helmets on the backlot of Zoetrope Studios are both maddeningly sexy and maddeningly inane. Weber's documentary eye not only urges us to admire singer Chris Isaak's Ricky Nelson good looks, but shows him flinching at the caress of his over-made-up but loving mom and the kitschy idolatry of the

Isaak's living room decor — family photos surrounded with dolls-of-all-nations, candles, a fake human skull, flamingo figurines and stuffed toys.

The photographs contain hints of cynicism and violence and banality, which suggest something other that just unthinking admiration for right-wing American values on the photographer's part. There is irony here.

Weber's photographs of nude men lack the abject idolatry of Herb Ritt's and Ken Haak's physique photographs.

Though his subjects are unmistakably handsome, Weber lets his camera catch the blemishes and rough edges of his models. He shares with Arbus an obsession with doubles, with twins, with tattoos.

Like Arbus, he re-views the American mainstream and makes it seem exotic or even grotesque.

IN HIS LAST ADDRESS to the reader of his newest collection, accompanied by a full-color portrait of a saluting Boy Scout, Weber remarks, "Diane Arbus, years ago, told me that once you photograph anyone — he is close to you forever. But it's all so fragile. Sometimes an athlete or actor thinks he's so much more beautiful than the way I see him. But it might have been his nose that I was in love with."

Less self-consciously arty than some of his peers and more unerring than most in his eye for erotic detail, Bruce Weber is easily the most significant figure in the field of male model photography today.

His new book merits the collector's attention and study, whether one usually reads Roland Barthes or Tom of Finland.

SGREENS

A film of heroic proportions

LAWRENCE OF ARABIA. Directed by David Lean. Screenplay by Robert Bolt. Starring Peter O'Toole and Omar Sharif. reviewed by **F. LYNNE BACHLEDA**

Staff Writer

SEVEN ACADEMY AWARDS: best picture, direction, color cinematography, editing, color art direction, musical score and sound.

The hero a real one, the story based on fact.

A whopping 222 minutes directed by an editor that traces an unlikely, enormously complex white man, who was probably homosexual, leading thousands of Arabs into revolt and self-determination during World War I.

The "pocket Hercules" was bastard Britisher T.E. Lawrence, the cinematic overachievement is David Lean's LAWRENCE OF

I missed it when first released in 1962, rereleased in 1971, and when it premiered on television in 1972. In those ten years it dimin-

ished from its fullscale panoramic premiere for Queen Elizabeth II with a running time of three hours and 42 minutes, down to a squashed version to fill the small screen with almost 45 minutes lopped off.

In 1989, I had the sense to get to Nashville's only remaining large screen, (God bless her and keep her always), the Belle Meade Theatre.

to absorb the restored version from the front row. I was awestruck by the complex character of Lawrence and by the enormous difficulties of filming such an epic in the desert. As any one who has taken a camera to the beach will tell you, sand and wind and lenses do not mix.

As a general rule, I believe that feature films should be cut and kept to 90 minutes, 100 max. I wasn't bored with LAWRENCE. Lean's training as an editor kept the pace for all of the almost four hours. His transitions, cutting on sound, using the color fields of the desert that fill the frame to move time forward, are inspired grace. The compositions are elegant. They capitalize on the clarity of the desert that pops the people out against the white sand and blue skies. Maurice Jarre's (DR. ZHIVAGO, THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING) sweeping, stirring strings render beautifully the haunting, staunch lyrical score.

Lean works with the same people on various projects. Robert Bolt, who wrote the screenplay, collaborated also on DR. ZHIVAGO, and accomplished cinematographer Freddie Young shot ZHIVAGO, THE BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER KWAI and RYAN'S DAUGHTER. In LAWRENCE, watch Young's magic as Omar Sharif materializes from a speck in a mirage shot with a specially designed 450 mm lens.

Although not a total newcomer, the credits "introduce Peter O'Toole." It's hard to believe that someone without vast cinematic experience could so convincingly convey Lawrence's egomania, his adroit, charismatic

leadership, his conflicting appraisals of human life, his lust for death and the desert, and his curious relationship to pain.

Lean dresses Lawrence in the purity of white, while the supposedly savage Arab leader, Omar Sharif, is dressed in black. This is a play on moral stereotypes. It is Lawrence who is the sado-masochistic killer who can deliver death in cold blood — within battle or without.

There is a question of historical accuracy in such an epic made even more difficult by the myriad myths that surround T.E. Lawrence. He has suffered numerous biographers, and, finally, Bolt claimed to have centered his tale on Lawrence's own account of the desert campaign in seven pillars of wisdom. This runs 700 pages and Bolt had his work cut out

for him to compress the events. He choose almost to ignore Lawrence's conflicts of conscience as he double deals the Arabs, promising them sovereign independence while maintaining a second agenda to serve his own Britain. Pacifist Bolt chooses instead to highlight TE Lawrence's passion for killing. O'Toole executes this insanity

with a disturbing, lingering brilliance.

Bolt writes: "When men go to war their own best qualities are turned against them. Their virtues are made to serve the ends of destruction and waste. In time of war we need not look for a villain: the heroes are more than enough."

IN LIFE, LAWRENCE was a rather plain chap, almost five feet, six inches. O'Toole is a powerful, six feet two. The real Lawrence was learned, charismatic, enigmatic, captivating and his power shone, as did O'Toole's, in riveting blue eyes that Lean forces against the desert sky. The first sweeping victory is the capture of the seaport of Akaba that has Lawrence leading a stirring charge, overrunning the Turks. The sequence ends in a passionate, elegant pan that culminates in a view of useless guns permanently pointing out to

In reality, Lawrence shot the brains out of his camel in a prior minor skirmish, and the Turks surrendered in the face of overwhelming odds. Such license is the stock and trade of the movies, and all viewers should always beware when a film purports to serve up history.

I've seen LAWRENCE again since the big screen Belle Meade presentation. It's a different film, and the black bands and the top and bottom of the screen keep the restored composition, but are distracting. It's still worth seeing, it's a powerful and a terrific introduction to a fascinating character of this soon-to-be gone century.

Straight from <u>Desert Hearts</u>, the perfect sentiment for the holidays. All-cotton tee shirt in white or gray, \$16.50.



It's a Scream!

168 2nd Avenue North, Nashville ▼ (615) 244-7346
Your Visa and Mastercard welcome.

lowers for all occasions.
And now, roses are just
\$15 for a gift-boxed dozen.
Delivery extra.
Beat the rush! Order your holiday
table arrangements now.

**The company of the company of t



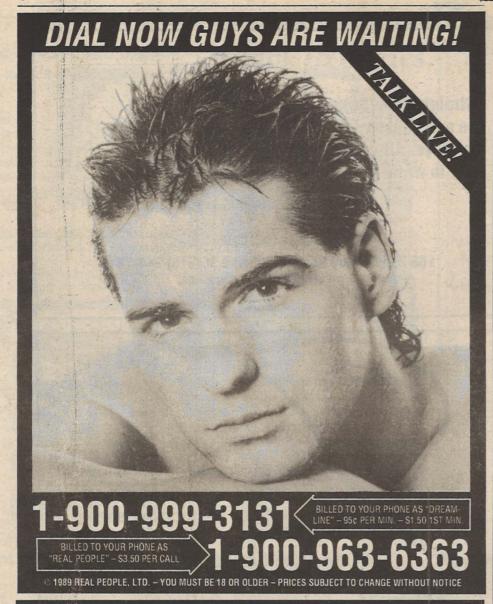
CHRISTMAS PARTY

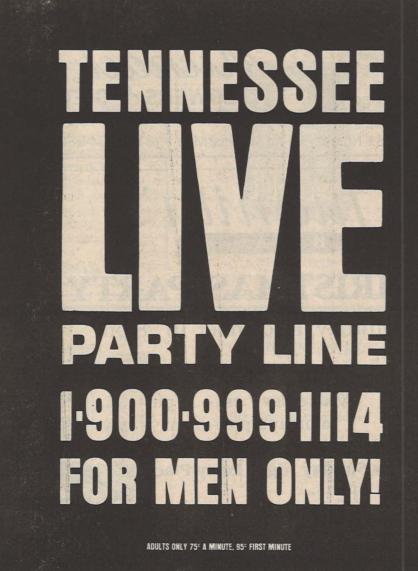
Saturday, December 16 8 pm

Beer Bust – \$3 All you can drink Wednesday 7 pm – 11 pm Saturday 2 pm – 6 pm

Nashville's Sunday Night Party Place!

1700 4th Avenue South, Nashville 615/256-9681





... opposing viewpoints

• continued from page 14

moral realm, tolerance, acceptance, and even affirmation would be preferable, but we recognize the rights of the individuals to their personal views and further suggest that these personal views simply are not the issue. Political choices, not private views, are what is at stake. Even if people think gay and lesbian sexuality is immoral, they can still, as a political matter, support the rights of individuals to make their own choices.

We can acknowledge moral conflicts on this issue and insist on a political climate in which both positions are respected. After all, moral views are deeply held and extremely personal and therefore subject to great vari-

Political choices, in contrast, affect us all. In order to preserve a climate in which moral debate and difference are possible, our politi-

cal positions must reflect tolerance and pluralism. Tolerance, as a guiding principle, need not imply approval or disapproval of particular positions.

The strength of our moral convictions ought to convince us of the importance of protecting them. We reject the application of political power to compel moral assent.

As a minority, gay men and lesbians stand to benefit greatly from this kind of disjunction of law and morality. Sodomy laws are a familiar attempt to legislate morality, as are recent attempts to limit access to abortion. The attempt to control the gay and lesbian body is the same as the attempt to control the female body. We must assert the importance of the body politic.

In conclusion, may we suggest that Ms. Tek reconsider at least her politics, if not her morals (but that's another debate).

... Christmas Memories

· continued from page 6

a soulful, gospel-style anthem. However, the rest of the cast (especially Evans Donnell and Janet Clowes), in a feeble attempt to echo Scott and Fleming's charged performances, seem to engage in a tiresome game of "let's really get into this song." Please. Let Scott and Fleming do what they do best, and everyone else can just sing back-up.

From there, it's on to a '50s Christmas medley, during which Clowes redeems herself with a spirited version of "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," and Russell does a funny Elvis turn with "Blue Christmas."

As the party ends, Nan Gurley sings "Christmas Memories," the show's title tune added for this year's production. It's a lovely song, full of sentiment and warmth, made more so by Gurley's performance.

Then there's the jarring shift as the stage is changed for a Christmas Festival Medley and the obligatory sing-along (which sends a few cast members out into the audience for a little festive merry-making). The festival medley includes some wonderful songs and the sing-along is fine, but why not include it in the party scene? It would be much less disruptive.

If you like Christmas music, then you'll find something to enjoy in CHRISTMAS MEMORIES. And, taken purely as a musical revue, CHRISTMAS MEMORIES SUCCEEDS.

But if you're really looking for a theatrical event that genuinely captures the holiday spirit, you're going to be disappointed.

...The Royal Family

• continued from page 6

performances from some fine actors, hereftofore noted for their richly textured dramatic portrayals, but here playing characters who are zany, eccentric and oh-so-intriguing.

First on that list is Scott Moreno, who has displayed his talents in a variety of roles dur-

ing the past few seasons. Now, he adds the role of dashing Tony Cavendish to his resumé. Based on John Barrymore, Moreno seizes the role, making it his own and obviously having a good time in the process.

Rick Harrell, last year's First Night award winning best actor, proves himself

adept at comedy in his role as Herbert Dean, Fanny's younger brother who refuses to accept the fact he's not a very good actor. Thankfully, Harrell is a superb actor and presents a very believable and charming character, it's a multi-hued performance that deserves accolades.

As Herbert's wife Kitty, Rita Frizzell shines as the opportunistic actress who has married "up" to advance her career. Frizzell is as wonderfully funny as her character is tackily dressed.

But in addition to these wonderful veterans

of past Actor's Playhouse productions, there are two newcomers — Jenny Wallace and Cristin Gardner — who give stylish performances as Fanny's daughter Julie (the current rage of Broadway) and granddaughter Gwen (soon to be the rage, if the Royal lineage continues).

Wallace is stunning as Julie, making her

entrances with aplomb and grace as would any actress at the zenith of her career. Gardner, in the role of the attractive young ingenue, is lovely, her performance fairly dripping with 1920s joie de vivre. My only complaint is her apparent insistence on wearing one of those currently popular string bracelets (you know,

the kind every kid in town is sporting). I just don't think Gwen Cavendish would wear something like that.

Others in the cast include Grant Houston, Dennis Ewing, Dan Hayes, Ingrid Somers (thoroughly delightful as the maid), Michael Hullett, Barry Lindsey and Troy Carrington.

I must confess my initial reluctance to see this show, THE ROYAL FAMILY, is after all one of my favorite shows. But director Toombs and cast have fashioned a production that is both loving and faithful to Ferber and Kaufman's script. And I say "thank you" for the gift.



Another tender Tennessee Christmas.



And Hannukah. And New Year.

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

Each week, we bring you reliable news, informed opinion, literate reviews and fascinating features – everything you need to know about lesbian and gay life in Tennessee, in one festive package.

That festive package also makes a great holiday gift that keeps on giving all year long. If you like, we'll even include a gift card in your name.

And now, you have a choice: a more affordable third-class subscription rate, and a first-class subscription for those who just can't wait.

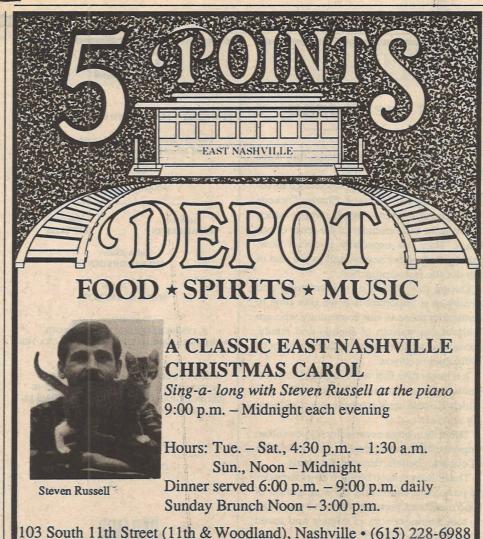
- 1 year of Dare mailed 1st class, \$35
- 1 year of Dare mailed 3rd class, \$20

Please allow 5 – 10 days for delivery of 3rd-class mail.



Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly

Please send a 🔾 \$35 1st-class 🔾 \$20 3rd-class gift subscription to: Name. Address.	\$35 for each subscription mailed 1st class \$
CityStateZip	
☐ Please send me a ☐ \$35 1st-class ☐ \$20 3rd-class subscription: My Name.	No order or gift order can be accepted without YOUR phone number and signature for
Address.	verification. Dare is mailed in an envelope.
	Our mailing list is confidential.
City	 Please send check or money ord to: Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422
Phone (Day)	attention of the second
(Evening)	
Jigilatuic	dound with the said.
Offer good only in the United States and if postmarked on or before January 1, 1990	



Talk about AIDS.

But talk with people who know what they're saying.

Chaltanooga Council on AIDS Resources, Education and Services (Chaltanooga CARES) Box 8402, Chaltanooga, TN 37411 call (615) 266-2422 aids Response Knoxville (aRK) Box 3932, Knoxville, TN 37927 call (615) 523-AIDS Aids to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC) Box 40389, Memphis, TN 38174 call (901) 458-AIDS 24 hours call (901) 762-8401 Nashville Council on AIDS Resources, Education and Services (Nashville CARES) Box 25107, Nashville, TN 37202 call (615) 385-AIDS (615) 385-1510

a public service message from Dare and Tennessee Responds to AIDS

VIEWS

Tis the season

"THEY WERE the best of times, they were the worst of times."

In his masterpiece about the French Revolution, A TALE OF TWO CITIES, Charles Dickens wrote those immortal words, words which today serve as a reminder of the tenor of our times. They are especially poignant now, during the holiday season and as the end of the decade fast approaches.

During this season of remembering and revelry, it is important that we take time to remember those in our community who are without the warmth of friends and family, those who are troubled - either by financial difficulties or illness.

It is imperative that we recognize the beauties and the intriguing mysteries of life: that which is made up of happiness and sadness, joy and fear.

The season gives us cause for rejoice and an opportunity at introspection, an examination of our own beliefs, dreams and ideals.

The holiday season brings with it memories of past celebrations and the anticipation of fond memories yet to be made. It brings with it, too, reminiscences of friends and loved ones no longer with us.

And with these thoughts come the often troubling specter of our own mortality, injecting into the levity of the holidays a note of seriousness and, perhaps, dread.

It is appropriate that our thoughts be filled with such disparate thoughts, as we celebrate and remember.

But perhaps foremost in our minds should be the resolve to keep the spirit of the holidays with us throughout the year. It's easy to save these special thoughts for one part of the year, compartmentalizing our emotions like business files

YET IF THE TRUE SPIRIT is to live, we must be aware throughout the year: aware of our friends and loved ones, and of those whose lives are troubled. Our resolve should be to strive to share their burdens and to share

Then, and only then it would seem, will the true holiday spirit be known to us. These are, after all, the best of times.

Happy Holidays and Season's Greetings from everyone at Dare. •

BOX 40422

Dear Dare:

On Sunday, December 10, It's A Scream Inc. hosted a holiday dinner and party for people with AIDS and ARC at The Chute in Nashville. I want to express the appreciation of the Vanderbilt AIDS Project staff for this opportunity provided our clients. We especially want to thank Jacki Moss for her efforts.

This event demonstrates again the support for people with AIDS and ARC found in the Nashville community. It also reminds those of us involved in AIDS work that we are not alone in the struggle against this disease.

A. Gene Copello Director Vanderbilt AIDS Project Nashville



TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

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

> December 15 - 21, 1989 Volume 2, Number 50

Publisher STUART BIVIN

Editor

Book Editor SHERRE DRYDEN

Staff Intern MARK LAWRENCE

Staff Writers
F. LYNNE BACHLEDA • JOE MAROHL JACKI MOSS • MICHAEL SANDERS • LAURA TEK

SUSAN BRUNINGA • JIMMY CHILDERS

STEVEN DAVIDSON • NANCY LYN DEFINE GEORGE GRAHAM • LESLIE GUERIN-HAINES DAVID MCCOLLOUGH • JIM ROCHE

> Circulation SANDY ROUSSELL

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

\$35 first class, \$20 third class. Postal Service: send address changes to: Circulation Department Dare

Box 40422 Nashville, TN 37204-0422

NOTICE

Publication of the name, photograph or other likeness of any person or organization in Dare is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual, religious or political orientation, practice or beliefs of such person or members of such organization.

Dare and the Dare logo are trademarks of Pyramid Light & Power for its newspaper. Entire contents and design copyright @1989 Pyramid Light & Power, except where specifically noted. All rights reserved. Reproduction, either in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited without the express written consent of the publisher.

OPINIONS

The opinions of this newspaper are expressed only in editorials. Any views expressed in any advertisement, signed column, letter, article or cartoon are those of the author, artist, speaker or writer, and do not necessarily reflect the positions of Dare, Pyramid Light & Power, staff members or advertisers.

LETTERS

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

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

ARCHIVES

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

SOAPBOX

An opposing viewpoint

by CAROLE CUNNINGHAM and JULIE KLEIN Special to Dare

The conflation of

law and morality

in the case

of abortion leads

to dire results.

not the least

of which are the

negative implications

for the struggle

for gay rights.

IT'S HARD NOT TO be pro-life in some broad sense. Even those who identify themselves with the pro-choice movement often express distaste and dismay with the idea of abortion; nobody, we suspect, really thinks that abortion is intrinsically a desirable procedure. Neither, we suspect, does anyone seriously think that an unwanted pregnancy or a potentially hazardous pregnancy is a good situation. In these situations, the anguish of abortion is entwined with the anguish of pregnancy. To talk about abortion without

talking about pregnancy is simply irre-

sponsible.

In response to Laura Tek's Soapbox piece two weeks ago, we would like to suggest that Tek has completely missed the point: she fundamentally misunderstands the issues and the significance of the abortion debate. She fails to articulate a theory of the proper relationship between law and morality and, consequently, misconstrues the implications of the abortion debate for the

political future of women, the gay and lesbian community, and other similarly marginalized groups. Indeed, her evocation of the specter of selective abortion as a central issue in the abortion debate is particularly misleading, and is perhaps only surpassed by the extreme narcissism of her concluding argument which seems to say essentially that "If abortion were legal, I might not exist." One can hardly imagine how this could be troubling to a nonexistent entity.

Let us treat the issues systematically. Why ought one's personal moral views translate immediately into a political position? To do so in the case of abortion is already to assume the pro-life position. To the pro-life advocate, the tolerance implied in the pro-choice position is a failure to confront a basic moral evil, namely, murder. In contradistinction, we find this tolerance of other views a great virtue and point out that the status of the fetus is itself in question and far from clear. The pro-choice position doesn't compel women to have abortions, and in fact, those who do not wish to have abortions (for whatever reasons), need not choose to do so.

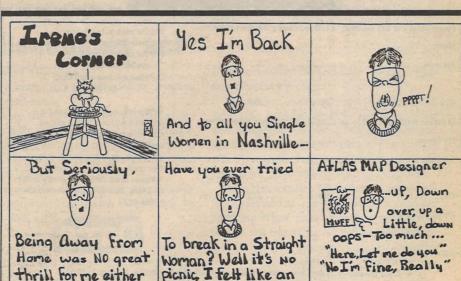
We agree with Tek that "no other issue today divides us so clearly as the abortion is-

sue." Her invocation of the rhetoric of "civil rights matters" is apparently an attempt to identify the rights of the fetus with the rights of other oppressed minorities. Her assumption that the fetus is an "unborn child" is already to foreclose the debate in favor of the pro-life position. If the fetus is a child, obviously it is a person.

Particularly disturbing is Tek's formulation of the mother's position as having no particular moral status. She opposes the pre-

sumed "right to life" of the fetus to the "convenience" of the mother. This clearly trivializes the profound needs of many women who seek abortions. By framing the debate from the perspective of the fetus, Tek ignores the concrete situation of the mother. This displays astoundingly little identification with or regard for other women and strikes us as misogyny. The conflation of law and morality in the case of abortion leads to dire results, not the least of which are the negative implications for the struggle for gay rights. In the level realm, the very privacy doctrine developed around rights to contraception and abortion has been our best hope for civil rights. In the continued on page 12

- DARE CARTOON BY LESLIE GUERIN-HAINES



PERSPEGTIVES

Witnessing a controversy

by FRANKLIN BROOKS Special to Dare

DESPITE A FIRESTORM of controversy over its \$10,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant, the Artists' Space show "WIT-NESSES: Against Our Vanishing," is coolheaded in conception.

Behind a black, cast iron facade, on West Broadway south of SoHo, it displays some twenty-four artists' work in a spacious, white environment. Paintings and photographs, sculpture and fabric favor blacks and whites. Here and there lurid greens—the color of our green-backs - surface on a painting, on another generation's enameled hospital fur-

niture, used surrealistically, on a broken flower vase.

Red rosettes stitched to block-print figures mark them for death; a red plaque reading "Died of AIDS" accompanies some labels.

No sex acts, at least in clear focus, some body hair, occasional male and female genitals, one penis erect: nothing to offend today's average gal-

lery visitor. No pictures of cancerous flesh, no

But a wall beside the information desk displays the text of NEA chair John E. Frohnmayer's statements withdrawing then restoring the grant, the gallery's press releases in defense of "free speech, free expression, public funding for the arts," a protest by the exhibit's guest curator, Nan Goldin and artists' manifestos against censorship.

And, on the day I went there in November, a bomb threat closed the gallery and sent us out into the street, visitors, volunteers and staff

A man coming out of the Franklin Street station asked one of us, a willowy woman wrapped to her ankles in sheared beaver, for directions: "I'm disoriented," he said.

So were we, by this eruption of hate and potential violence in the midst of private reflection and shared grief.

The show catalog, with a jungle-red cover, was the pretext for Frohnmayer's original decision to withdraw NEA funds. He has restored them on condition that they not pay for its printing costs.

At issue is the essay by David Wojnarowic, which attacks the suffering caused by AIDS, the specious comforts that "any and all kinds of spiritual and psychic and physical words or concepts" are designed to provide, our society's conservative agenda for dealing with the health crisis ("'Just say no' to sexuality itself") and its most powerful spokespersons: New York City's Cardinal O'Connor (that "fat cannibal from that house of walking swastikas up on fifth avenue," that "creep in black skirts," Jesse Helms ("the repulsive senator from zombieland," William Dannemeyer, a Republican from California and the author of a book against homosexuality, New

York's Democratic mayor Ed Koch and the

Frohnmayer refused to fund Wojnarowic's supposedly political - rather than artistic agenda, namely to "douse Helms with a bucket of gasoline and set his putrid ass on fire or throw rep. William Dannemeyer off the empire state building."

So NEA funds can only be used to pay exhibit expenses. For all the good press his appointment got from liberals and conservatives, Frohnmayer looks bad here. He knows that Wojnarowic frames his attacks in a

dream.

"I'm beginning to believe that one of the last frontiers left for radical gesture is the imagination," his essay explains, "these fantasies give me distance from my outrage for a few seconds.'

Yet Frohnmayer denies the writer the right to put real names and real faces on his fantasies of evil. So much for

freedom of expression.

We were disoriented

by this eruption

of bate and potential

violence in the

midst of private

reflection and shared

grief.

As for whether or not to fund the catalog, he did not have to worry. In its "Acknowledgement," Susan Wyatt had already pointed out that "It is worthy of note that this publication was not funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and, as they have requested, I would like to make clear that the opinions, findings and recommendations expressed herein do not reflect their views."

What more could Frohnmayer have asked for? What more has he achieved except further polarization of opinion and the creation of another overseeing committee in the overcrowded field of government support to the

At least Wojnarowic has got some welldeserved attention out of this; his essay deserves wider distribution. Its attack - angry, clever, rude and informed - makes a persuasive case for the dismantling of our "day to day illusion of the ONE TRIBE NATION," or conformity, by means of protest in art, and in public. He regrets the loss of his privacy but sill affirms:

"Each public disclosure of a private reality becomes something of a magnet that can atract others with a similar frame of reference; thus each public disclosure of a fragment of private reality serves as a dismantling tool against the illusion of ONE TRIBE NATION; it lifts the curtains for a brief peek and reveals the possible existence of literally millions of tribes, the term GENERAL PUBLIC disintegrates. If GENERAL PUBLIC disintegrates, what happens next is the possibility of an X-RAY OF CIVILIZATION, an examination of its

Wojnarowic's private reality embraces not only his homosexuality and his HIV-positive condition, but also the loss of friends and

fellow artists to AIDS. Whether to be either artistic or political is a choice he refuses to make. Similarly, some of his photographs are composites of our shared experience - night views of the East River or an anonymous water tower - and scenes of intimacy, overexposed almost to the point of illegibility but

THE EXHIBIT Nan Goldin has assembled records the friendships and professional lives of artists, gays and lesbians in large part, whom she has know on Manhattan's lower east side for the past few years. Their art is as much about affection and shared dignity as it is about AIDS, which has decimated their community and destroyed talents they val-

Still the networking goes on here, from one wall to another. Mark Morrisoe appears in a series of photographs of himself and in a portrait by Tabboo! Stephen Tashjean.

Peter Hujar did the photograph of Darrel Ellis that Ellis reworks in ink on paper. And Hujar's death, two years ago at the age of 53, compelled Wojnarowic to reject the comfort of conventional wisdom and to strip "the body of flesh in order to see the skeleton, the structure" instead.

The number of artists who have turned to portraits is a noteworthy aspect of this interconnectedness

David Armstrong's well-lit photographs, recording the faces of his gay community, have the sophisticated look of Avedon fash-

Dorit Cypis has photographed several women friends' nude bodies in fragments; now she displays their snapshots, in individual frames, on shelves under a large idealized woman seen sleeping. This reconciliation is an act of healing.

Allen Frame juxtaposes pictures of gays taken in the 1950s with re-enactments staged today; now his friends are older, less mannered, leaner and he photographs them in black and white, not color.

In today's self-conscious, self-reflecting art the act of capturing the image is but one

incident in an artist's story. Photographed by Mapplethorpe as well as Hujar, Darrel Ellis could not leave "these frozen images of myself" alone and had to transcribe them himself.

Perhaps it is this need to take charge of one's life again, in the face of diseases as often as not, that animates the self-portraits here, and empowers their makers to write their own autobiography. Vittorio Scarpati (1955-1989) is represented in this exhibit by pages from a comic book-like sketch book he kept in the hospital.

One, entitled "What happened to my lungs? I do not know," shows the artist in bed with his sketches and is captioned, "This is it, they turn in a book yes they turn into a book page by page page & page page."

trait Lying Down" presents his hairy upper torso, arms raised above his head, his face turned toward us. Its meaning remains private. Is he pretending to look at us, whoever we are and whatever our purpose here, or looking straight at the camera, with which alone he shares his personal truth?

Above all, the photographer Mark Morrisroe (1959-1989) demands to be heard. His Polaroids of himself, with captions in the margin, chronicle a short life of danger, selfabuse and disease: they show the artist as a boy prostitute - "sweet sixteen" - as the intimate of a rubber fetishist, as a bare chested punk with bad skin.

The violence of his life explodes in a text from Ramsey McPhillips' biography:

"They have stopped listening to me, so I wrote everything down in a note; who was trying to murder me and how, and then smashed the vase of flowers Pat Hearn sent me so I would have something to mutilate myself with by carving in my leg, 'evening nurses murdered me'; and I took the phone receiver and pummeled my face over and over and sprayed blood all over the walls and on this book; and then I took the butter pat from my dinner tray and greased up the note and stuffed it up my asshole so they would find it during my autopsy."

"WITNESSES: Against Our Vanishing." It is not just AIDS victims and their survivors speaking.

It is also this generation of artists who identify themselves and their art with a personal, political, intractable truth about the place of homosexuality among us. Society may not want to hear about it, but if it deprives them of a venue in art, their very lives, their anatomies, their flesh and blood, become its history. Susan Wyatt and the Artists' Space have done our society a commendable service, with considerable private foundation and corporate support, in providing a safe place for thought to come to grips with these facts. Frohnmayer and the NEA should be proud to be in such company. •



KEVIN, a black and white photograph, was one of those exhibited Peter Hujar's photograph "Self Por- in the show witnesses. — PHOTO DAVID ARMSTRONG

MARKET

Announcements

- COMING SOON: A very personal gift, from us to you.
 Stay tuned for details.
- The Chute is accepting applications for assistant chef
 wait staff. Phone for information. Nashville. (615)
 297-4571.
- Stuff your stocking at It's a Scream! Lots of stuff you won't find anywhere else. It's A Scream! 1682nd Avenue North, Nashville. (615) 244-7346.
- I know you're out there a good, honest mechanic. I have an old car that needs your help. Nashville. DARE DRAWER 40.
- New lesbian and gay community meeting space needs interior decoration: chairs, lamps, tables, artworks, 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.
- LONG HOURS. HARD WORK. LOW PAY. Dare is accepting applications from writers in Chattanooga, Clarksville, Jackson, Knoxville, Memphis,

Murfreesboro, Nashville, the Tri-cities and around Tennessee. Learn community-oriented journalism, and be one of the best. Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone (615) 327-Dare.

Real Estate

- Roommate wanted: Prof GWM to share house. \$275/ month plus utilities. Nashville. (615) 269-4171 before 2:15 pm.
- Inglewood one Bedroom apt \$305/month. Lease/deposit. All utilities furnished. Nashville. (615) 226-7124.
- 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

- You may have snowed the decorator, but I know one when I see one swish by. If. You. Know. What. I. Mean.
- GWM paraplegic, 37, seeks gentle, understanding companion. Send photo, phone to DARE DRAWER 41.
- LL I'm remembering how wonderful last Christmas was and how sorry I am we're not tree-shopping together this year. Remember that scrawny cedar we bought? Let's give it another try, huh? Your mom won't give me your number, so please call. I was wrong and I'm really sorry. - Bear

CLASSIFIED ADS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS OFFICE USE ONLY 1..... Zip D.... V..... R. certify that I am the person named above. No ad will be accepted without signature. All ad prices are for two consecutive weeks: \$10 for up to 100 characters, \$20 for up to 200 characters and so on. Please print one character per box. A character is any letter, numeral, space or punctuation mark. We reserve the right to edit ads, and to reject any ad. Sexually explicit or exploitative ads will not be accepted. No ad will be accepted without signature and advance payment in full, We assume no responsibility for advertisers' claims. Run ad for 2 weeks 4 weeks weeks Ad cost per 2-week period \$..... + response drawer charge \$ 5.00 + BOLD CAPS charge \$ 5.00 = SUBTOTAL \$..... x number of two-week periods = CLASSIFIED AD TOTAL \$..... + 3rd-class \$20 subscription \$..... + 1st-class \$35 subscription \$..... AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$..... 9/1 3721

LOOSE LIPS

Tennessee's waltz

"Helms: Does the list of disabilities include pedophiles?

"Harkin: What?

"Helms: P-e-d-o-p-h-i-l-e-s?

"Harkin: I can assure the Senator no.

"Helms: How about schizophrenics?

"Harkin: Schizophrenics, yes.

"Helms: Kleptomania?

"Harkin: Well, I am not certain on that.

"Helms: Manic depressives?

"Harkin: Manic depressives, yes...

"I lelms: People with intelligence levels, as measured on standardized tests such as the IQ test, which are so far below standard average levels as to limit substantially one or more major life activities, but who do not have any identifiable mental disease?

"Harkin: It is my understanding that they would be covered in this bill."

— A scintillating exchange between Sen. Tom Harkin (D-lowa) and Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) about the finer points of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), reported in December's REASON magazine. Kleptomaniacs have since been kicked out by amendment, the magazine reports, as have pedophiles, transvestites, homosexuals, bisexuals, exhibitionists, voyeurs, compulsive gamblers, pyromaniacs and current substance abusers.

"An indiscretion committed when he was 30 years old and in his first term in Congress came back to haunt Congressman [sic] Gerry Studds 10 years later. Studds served drinks to a male congressional page and then went to bed with him; he later took him to Europe. This Platonic (in the correct use of that term) incident, now nearly two decades behind us, lives forever in Bay State political lore. The page, who was 16 years old at the time, is now middle-aged, but he is described as 15 or 14 or even as 13 by some callers to the talk programs. We've heard [Rep. Barney] Frank's erstwhile friend, who is 32, described as a teenager. At this rate, Studds' former page will turn 3, and Frank's bad boy will enter kindergarten. Once craziness gets into the air, the sky's the limit."

— REASON magazine's contributing editor David Brudnoy on those wacky radio talk show callers-in.

"You can never be too sure about those bigboned European women who don't shave under their arms."

— More wisdom from our favorite of the designing women, Suzanne Sugarbaker.

"I imagine that sex between a man and a woman is probably a very beautiful thing. But you have to understand it's somethin' that's beyond me. When I was still a very young boy, I was taken to a whore house for my initiation into manhood, and this woman made me look right between her legs. I don't know, all I could see was somethin' that looked like a dyin' orchid. Consequently, I have never been comfortable either with orchids or women."

—The inimitable Tennessee Williams, to Eliza-

beth Ashley. Williams is spinning in his grave at the notion that Nashville Playhouse, which director Marianne Clark calls a "family organization" that "does not condone or support the homosexual lifestyle," is planning a production of his masterpiece, THE GLASS MENAGERIE.

"In my plays I guess I have included every kind of sexuality but bestiality. But that's because I like animals too much."

- Tennessee Williams.

"We are not trying to imitate women."

— Tennessee Williams, on gay men.

"I'm not sure, but perhaps Lean initial it."

— Williams, responding to a homophobic drunk's request for an autograph on his penis.

"Maybe they weren't punks at all, but New York drama critics. That mugging received better and more extensive publicity than anything I ever wrote."

— Playwright Williams, after a homophobic attack by a gang of marauding youths.

"I sleep with Mr. Williams."

— Frank Merlo, Tennessee's lover, in response to a question from movie mogul Jack Warner, "And what do you do, young man?"



Tennessee Williams: now waltzing in theatrical heaven.— DARE FILE PHOTO

"We were filming in a sleazy New York drug den and I was interviewing a skinny, blank-eyed addict with AIDS — when suddenly he became enraged by one of my questions and swung his infected needle at my hand. I froze in horror as the blood-dripping tip of the needle plunged toward my hand, bringing with it years of agony and certain death. But at the last possible moment, I yanked my hand away — and the diseased needle missed me by a scant two inches." — Geraldo Rivera in an excert from his "up-

 Geraldo Rivera in an excert from his "upcoming book" featured in the NATIONAL ENQUIRER.

©1989 Dare Features Syndicate