

Free personals
for Valentine's Day!
See page 13.

Dare

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 4

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

JANUARY 26, 1990

Attorney General issues porn opinion

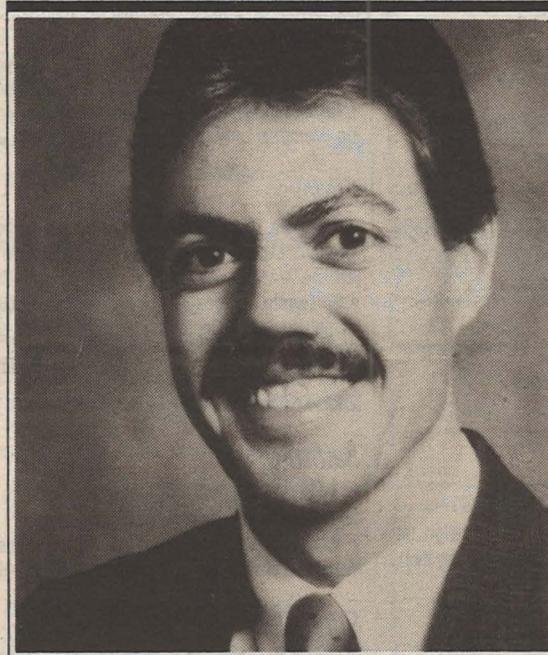
by JACKI MOSS
Staff Writer

Tennessee attorney general Charles W. Burson recently rendered an opinion on the constitutionality of proposed revisions to Tennessee's obscenity laws that the Nashville Coalition Against Pornography (NCAP) said, "moves us one giant leap way down the road in lobbying for what we think is right."

Michael Gilstrap, executive director of NCAP, said "This places us in a very positive situation because the attorney general basically said, without our prompting, that the things we believe in are constitutional. It gives us additional support in dealing with the legislature and in working on legislative issues."

The obscenity laws remain one of the hot topics on the gay and lesbian agenda because they have been used in the past to close bookstores and other establishments that have gay and lesbians among their clientele. Generally leaders in the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) have taken the position that the laws may hit strongest against minorities and that the rights of

• continued on page 4



David A. Bryan, former executive director of the Texas Human Rights Foundation, has been named legal director of National Gay Rights Advocates, succeeding Leonard Graff. — DARE FILE PHOTO

Warehouse 28 sold

New owners take over 12-year-old Nashville lesbian/gay nightclub

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

After almost twelve years, ownership of Nashville's Warehouse 28 has changed hands and names — it's now called Warehouse Two — effective January 5.

New owners Wayne Prince and Ted Raper took over the business from original owners Steve Smith and Mike Wilson, who opened the bar in April, 1978. Prince had been an employee at the nightclub, at 2529 Franklin Road, for ten years.

"I always said I didn't want to own a bar, but it was a good business opportunity," Prince said.

"I'm real pleased that Wayne and Ted have the Warehouse," Smith said. "I think by selling the bar I was able to help my business financial picture."

Prince's career at Warehouse 28 began 10 years ago "working the lights," he said, and included "doing bookwork during the day, then working the door and eventually going into management part time."

Raper, a long-time patron at the club, had earlier expressed an interest in entering the business, Prince said.

"Not being in the business before has helped him to come up with some good ideas," Prince said.

Plans for the business during the

next six months, Prince said, include a "paint job to spruce the place up," work on the dance floor and some other structural changes.

Smith, whose almost 12 years at the club included both the highlights and the low points of the local lesbian/gay community's history, said he will be concentrating on his other business ventures in the Nashville area.

"It was a matter of having two businesses to operate and not being able to do it properly without a clone," Smith said. "By selling the bar, we were trying to make a smart business move. We have some other business concerns that need our attention."

Smith also owns Airplay in the Berry Hill Square shopping center. Airplay, which began as Balloons Hi! in 1979, initially specialized in balloon bouquets, greeting cards and gifts items and has since expanded to one of the city's busiest special event planners.

In recalling the past 12 years, Smith said the highlights — including fund-raisers for various charitable organizations — will always be "at the top of [my] list of memories." He estimated that benefits at Warehouse 28 have netted "well into the six figures" for local organizations. •

Legalization of same sex marriages:

Should homosexual unions be recognized in Tennessee, U.S.?

by LAURA TEK
Staff Writer

Legal recognition of same-sex relationships is a subject that seems to be generating a good deal of debate in both heterosexual and gay/lesbian circles.

To have a government-sanctioned relationship is becoming more and more the desire of homosexual couples, a right still reserved for only heterosexual couples.

During the past few years — perhaps starting with the mass wedding that was held during the October, 1987, March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights — the prospect of legalizing gay and lesbian marriages is becoming a more realistic goal.

Denmark last year became the first country ever to legalize same-sex unions and Sweden may soon become the next country to legally affirm such relationships.

More and more cities across the United States are introducing "domestic partnership" legislation and, according to some activists, opposition is dwindling.

Thomas B. Stoddard, executive director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, supports the idea of gay men and lesbians seeking the right to marry.

"In its traditional form, marriage has been oppressive, especially to women. Indeed, until the middle of the last century, marriage was, at its legal and social essence, an extension of the husband and his paternal family," Stoddard said.

"Nevertheless," he continued. "Despite the oppressive nature of marriage historically, and in spite of the general absence of edifying examples of modern heterosexual marriage, I believe very strongly

that every lesbian and gay man should have the right to marry the same-sex partner of his or her choice.

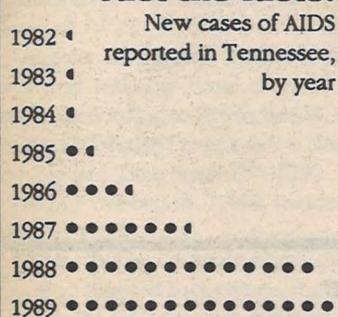
"Marriage may be unattractive and even oppressive as it is currently structured and practiced, but enlarging the concept to embrace same-sex couples would necessarily transform it into something new. If two women can marry, or two men, marriage — even for heterosexuals — need not be a union of a 'husband' and a 'wife.' Extending the right to marry to gay people — that is, abolishing the traditional gender requirements for marriage — can be one of the means, perhaps the principal one, through which the institution divests itself of the sexist trappings of the past."

Paula Eitelbrick, legal director for Lambda, holds an opposite view.

"It is not surprising that some lesbians and gay men would look to legal marriage for self-affirmation. After all, those who can marry can be instantaneously transformed from 'outsiders' to 'insiders,' and we have a desperate need to become insiders. It could make us feel okay about ourselves, perhaps even relieve some of the internalized homophobia that we all know so well," she said.

• continued on page 4

Just the facts:



• = 25 reported cases of AIDS

Tennessee's Department of Health and Environment has released 1989 figures on the number of new cases of AIDS reported in the state. 346 new cases were reported in 1989, up from 1988's 321. — DARE STAFF GRAPHIC

INSIDE

Dare this week

The Children's Hour:
Examining Lillian Hellman's play.
Centerpiece, page 8.



Tom's terrific:
Born on the Fourth of July.
Screens, page 12.

Playing cops and robbers
with Sly and Kurt.
Loose Lips, page 15.



D A T E S

Big events


**TEXAS
TWO-STEPPING
WITH THE GIRLS**

Saturday, January 27

Musical TEXAS TWO-STEPPING WITH THE GIRLS, benefit for GCN. At Unitarian Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. 7pm. \$8. Info (615) 254-8250.

Sunday, January 28

Concert INDIGO GIRLS, benefit for Knoxville Pro-Choice Coalition. At Planet Earth, 121 W. Jackson Av, Knoxville. 8pm. \$15. Info (615) 637-3861 or 428-2186.

Saturday, February 3

Followup Meeting New Memphis outdoor activities group for lesbians and gay men. At Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, Madison, Memphis. 1pm. Info (901) 274-1847 or 276-0275.

Monday, February 5

Consciousness Raising Black and White Men Together / Memphis. 7:30pm. Info (901) 726-1461.

Saturday, February 10

Workshop WHAT CAN YOU DO TO KEEP ABORTION LEGAL AND SAFE? Political skills workshop, sponsored by ACLU of Tennessee and Tennesseans Keeping Abortion Legal and Safe (TKALS). 766 Highland, Memphis. 9am—Noon. Brown bag lunch. Info (615) 320-7142 or 327-0821.

Outing The new Brooks Museum of Art. Black and White Men Together / Memphis. Space limited, please register. 1:30pm. Info (901) 726-1461.

Sunday, February 11

Covered Dish Potluck dinner. Sponsored by MCC / Tri-Cities, at Holston Valley Unitarian Church, Johnson City. 5pm. Info (615) 926-4393.

Fundraiser Valentine's show benefits Music City Sports Association. At The Chute, 2535 Franklin Rd, Nashville. 10:30pm and 12pm. Info (615) 385-9689.

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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 Monday for publication next Friday.

Chattanooga

Sundays

- **Lesbian & Gay CoDA** Co-Dependents Anonymous. Reflections, Harrison. 12:30pm. Info (615) 267-7824.
- **Metropolitan Community Church** Worship service, 3224 Navajo Dr. 6:30pm.

Mondays

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

Thursdays

- **Gay/Lesbian AA** Open meeting. Unitarian Church, 3224 Navajo Dr. 8pm.

Saturdays

- **Gay/Lesbian AA** No-smoke meeting. Unitarian Church, 3224 Navajo Dr. 7pm.

Clarksville

Thursdays

- **OSGL** Austin Peay State University Organization for Support of Gays & Lesbians, group for lesbians and gay men. Rm 4, Archwood, APSU. 4pm. Info (615) 648-7107.

Knoxville

Sundays

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

Mondays

- **aids Response Knoxville** PWA Support Group, 7-8:30pm. Info (615) 523-AIDS.
- **Gay Gratitude Group** Open, nonsmoking Alcoholics Anonymous. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 3219 Kingston Pike. 7pm.

Tuesdays

- **aids Response Knoxville** Circle of Love family and friends support group, 8pm. Info (615) 523-AIDS.
- **Gay and Lesbian Student Union/UTK** Weekly meeting, 8pm. Info (615) 595-8686.

Wednesdays

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

Fridays

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

Memphis

Mondays

- **Gay Alternative Hour** Radio show, WEVL-FM 90, 6-7pm. Memphis Gay Coalition Business meeting, 1st Monday. Rm A, Memphis Public Library, Peabody & Maclean. Info (901) 324-4297.
- **Phoenix** (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info (901) 272-9549.

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

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

Just like clockwork

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

Thursdays

- **P-FLAG** (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Support group. St. John's Episcopal Church, 322 S Greer. 1st Thursday only. Info (901) 761-1444.
- **Phoenix** (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30pm. Info (901) 272-9549.
- **Into the Light** (Women's Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info (901) 276-7379.

Fridays

- **Phoenix** (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30 and 10pm. Info (901) 272-9549.
- **Seriously Sober** (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info (901) 272-9549.
- **Coffeehouse** 3RD FRIDAY. Produced by Feminist Productions. Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison, Memphis. 8pm. \$2 donation. Info (901) 276-0844.

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

Tuesdays

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

Nashville

Mondays

- **Nashville CARES** ARC/AIDS Support Group. 6:30pm. Info (615) 385-1510.
- **Lambda Group** Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians. Unitarian Church. 8pm.
- **MAGNET** (Married and Gay Network) Support group for married gay men. 1st & 3rd Mondays only. MCC. 7:30pm. Info (615) 320-0288.

Tuesdays

- **Nashville CARES** HIV+ Support Group. 6pm. Info (615) 385-1510.
- **AI-Anon** Closed meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.
- **Nashville Women's Alliance** Meeting, at the Book Oasis, 2824 Dogwood Pl. 3rd and 4th Tuesdays only. 7:30pm. Info (615) 883-4833.
- **P-FLAG** Meeting of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 4th Tuesday only. Unitarian Church. 7:30pm. Info (615) 662-0332.
- **Sober Sisters** (Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, MCC. 8pm.
- **GCN** Viacom cable channel 35. 9pm.

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.
- **One in Ten** Support group for lesbian and gay teens. 6:30pm. Info (615) 834-9186 or GALLIP Hotline (615) 297-0008.
- **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.
- **Community Dinner** Metropolitan Community Church, all you can eat. 7:30pm. \$5. Info (615) 320-0288.
- **GCN** Viacom cable channel 35. 8pm.

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

- **Gay AA** 4pm. Holston Valley Unitarian Church.
- **Metropolitan Community Church** Worship service, 7pm. Holston Valley Unitarian Church. Info (615) 926-4393.

Tuesdays

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

Thursdays

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

Notice

• Because of the good response to our free personals offer, we have extended the promotion for another month, through the end of February. There are only two more issues of *Dare* before Valentine's Day (Friday, February 2, and Friday, February 9), so get your free personals in before Tuesday, February 6, to guarantee publication before Valentine's Day. See Marketplace, page 13, for details.

CROSS COUNTRY

compiled from STAFF REPORTS

Dole signs on as Hate Crimes bill co-sponsor

WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.) earlier this month signed on as a co-sponsor of the federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act, bringing the total number of supporters of the bill to 58 in the U.S. Senate.

"Dole's support is an important step forward for the Hate Crimes bill," said Peri Jude Radecic, legislative director and lobbyist for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). "As leader of Republicans in the Senate he carries formidable power for moving legislation. His co-sponsorship sends the clear message that this law has strong bipartisan support."

Radecic, who has lobbied extensively for the bill since its original introduction in the previous Congress, said the goal is to reach 60 co-sponsors or more.

"Sixty supporters equals 'cloture' in the Senate, which means we would have enough votes to block an anti-gay filibuster by Senator Jesse Helms," Radecic said.

Baptists Concerned set national retreat dates

OAKLAND, Calif. — American Baptists Concerned, a lesbian/gay caucus, will hold their national retreat June 25-27 at Westerbeke Ranch in Northern California's Sonoma Valley.

ABC members in the San Francisco area will help with transportation to and from the retreat, which will begin the day following the Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day parade.

The retreat will include fellowship, worship, support, strategy and organization. Registration is \$85 until March 30, after which the fee is \$100.

For details, write ABC National Retreat, 686 Waller, San Francisco, California 94117.

Anti-gay violence topic of Seattle conference

SEATTLE — Anti-lesbian/gay violence and harassment will be the topic of an all-day conference in Seattle, Saturday, January 27, sponsored by the Center for Democratic Renewal.

"Attacks of bigoted violence directed at gays and lesbians have reached epidemic levels," according to Kevin Berrill, director of the Anti-Violence Project of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

NGLTF recorded 7,248 incidents in 38 states in 1988.

"While this represents a significant proportion of all bigoted hate crimes, the problem of harassment of gays and lesbians has been largely ignored," Berrill, keynote speaker of the conference, said.

The Center for Democratic Renewal is a non-profit, non partisan organization with offices in Kansas City, Seattle and Atlanta. The CDR implements programs of research, training, public education, community organizing and technical assistance to counter white supremacy, religious intolerance and homo-

phobic violence.

Indiana activists plan first pride rally

INDIANAPOLIS — Lesbian and gay community leaders from throughout Indiana are organizing the state's first major pride rally, slated for June 16.

Justice, Inc. is the principal sponsor of the event, which will be held at the Circle Monument in downtown Indianapolis. The rally will feature speakers and entertainment.

Corcoran director quits

WASHINGTON — Christina Orr-Cahill, director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art resigned last month after months of debate over her decision to cancel an exhibition of photographs by the late gay artist Robert Mapplethorpe in June, 1989.

Orr-Cahill's resignation, which is effective February 1, was announced by Freeborn G. Jewett Jr., president of the 42-member Corcoran board of directors.

Gay basher sentenced

WASHINGTON — Judge Robert Scott of the District of Columbia Superior Court earlier this month sentenced David McCall, a self-proclaimed Skinhead, to 10-30 years in prison for assault with intent to kill and 5-15 years for armed robbery for the September, 1988, beating of a Washington gay man, Rodney Johnson.

David Hyder, another gang member who was convicted of the same charges, will be sentenced on March 12. McCall and Hyder had been held without bond since their conviction by a unanimous jury last November 17. Richard Grimes, also indicted in the attack, fled the jurisdiction and was never found or tried. Police are still looking for him.

The beating, which took place in the early morning hours while Johnson was on his way home from work, involved several gang members, some wielding baseball bats and shouting "die, fattot, die."

Johnson, who was left for dead, suffered a concussion, collapsed lung, broken finger and a fractured skull, ribs and shoulder in the attack. He later filed a multi-million dollar civil suit against eight members of the Skinhead gang.

HUD chiefs sbun family leave provision

WASHINGTON — The two top officials of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have denounced a labor contract that extends domestic partnership benefits to the agency's lesbian/gay employees.

HUD Secretary Jack Kemp, along with Under Secretary Alfred DelliBovi, claimed the contract with the HUD employee union illegally "redefines the family."

In an article in THE WASHINGTON POST, DelliBovi said, "[HUD is] not going to ratify a contract which redefines the family to include non-traditional living arrangements. We believe such provisions are illegal."

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...same sex marriages

• continued from page 1

"So why does this unlikely event deeply disturb me?" she asked. "For two major reasons. First, marriage will not liberate us as lesbians and gay men. In fact, it will constrain us, make us more invisible, force our assimilation into the mainstream, and undermine the goals of gay liberation.

"Second, attaining the right to marry will not transform our society from one that makes narrow, but dramatic, distinctions between those who are married and those who are not married to one that respects and encourages choice of relationships and family diversity. Marriage runs contrary to two of the primary goals of the lesbian and gay movement: the affirmation of gay identity and culture; and the validation of many forms of relationships."

How do gay and lesbian Tennesseans feel? "I generally support one's right to get married if they want to but in my opinion a marriage, soon after it's entered into, causes the relationship to fall apart," said Wanda Horton. "Marriage takes away from the individual and creates one dominant 'partner.' It is not something I would personally do, but I do respect one's right to do so if they so choose."

"We support it," said Steve Davidson and Jim Aldredge, both of Nashville. "We have been together for over six years and had a holy union four years ago. We are very committed to each other. To have our union legally recognized would just be a convenience for us now because we wouldn't have to worry about securing living wills and getting powers of attorney. To have the right to legally marry does away with all that hassle."

Chattanooga David McCollough said, "I favor it because why should it be only the hetero couples who get all the survivorship benefits and tax breaks? My partner and I should be able to receive those same kinds of benefits. The fact that we don't is clear discrimination. I'm surprised that many in our community think that it's imitating heterosexual unions and therefore a bad idea."

"I support the legalization of same-sex marriage because I support the individual's right to choose, but personally, I don't think that putting it down on paper is necessary in order to have and to maintain a healthy, long-term relationship. If a couple wants legal protection, there are other ways to achieve that other than by a marriage document," said law student Jeanie Talton.

"Yes, of course, I support it, why would anyone oppose it?" asked Emily Whitcomb. "It's not a 'straight' thing to want to legally marry, just as it isn't a 'straight' thing to get a driver's license, or to work for a living. We should have the right to do all of these things."

"The social fabric of the United States has always placed a greater value on control than on dignity and self-determination," said Martin French. "I don't think that legalization is a short cut to the end of the legal repression of lesbians and gay men in America any more than finding another burial site is a solution to our garbage problem."

"We need to demand that our legislators and civic and religious leaders establish legal, moral and ethical precedents that provide that relationships between consenting adults are not and cannot be controlled by government." •

...pornography opinion

• Continued from page 1

minorities need protecting. In an interview with *Dare* last year, Hedy Weinberg, director of ACLU/Tennessee, said that no one has the right to deny people who do wish to view certain materials, their rights to do so.

Weinberg also reiterated that the rights of minorities need to be protected against "what might be called mob mentality."

NCAP's director said his group "will not go into bars, clubs, or go after gay newspapers or publications."

"Homosexuality is not the focus," Gilstrap said. "Pornography is pornography whether or not it is homosexual or heterosexual. We just want to get rid of pornography. Period. We do not have a hidden agenda and what we are doing has nothing to do with sexual preference or orientation."

Gilstrap admitted the coalition "does not have the power to go and tell a store to carry this video or not to carry that video," and that the group does not currently have a hit list of videos or retail establishments.

He also said that if the coalition's efforts to use consumer pressure to wipe out what it says the law says is obscene, that he is "not saying that we will never take a more direct approach to dealing with stores that have this type material."

Among the proposed revisions in Tennessee's constitution are questions about making obscenity statutes local, rather than statewide; whether to include sadomasochistic abuse in the definition of illegal sexual conduct and how many adult-oriented establish-

ments may be licensed for a certain location. Opinions rendered by the attorney general — at the request of state Rep. Douglas Henry (D-Nashville) — specifically stated:

• "The amendment of Tennessee's obscenity statutes to require a local, rather than a statewide, standard in defining obscene matter would be constitutional." The opinion states that, "There is no constitutional impediment to using a local, rather than a statewide standard in determining whether a particular material is obscene...The decision concerning which standard should be employed in Tennessee is a matter for the legislature."

• "The amendment to the definition of sexual conduct...to include sadomasochistic abuse would be constitutional." The current definition of "obscene" is, "The average person applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest: the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct; and the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value."

The definition of sexual conduct is, "Patently offensive representations of descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated. A sexual act is simulated when it depicts explicit sexual activity which gives the appearance of ultimate sexual acts, anal, oral or genital. 'Ultimate sexual acts' means sexual intercourse, anal or otherwise, fellatio, cunnilingus or sodomy; or patently offensive representations or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions, and lewd exhibition of the genitals." •

LOCAL COLOR

compiled from **STAFF REPORTS**

Memphis

GWSP to host Valentine's dance

Memphis' Gay Women's Social Group (GWSP) will host a Valentine's Dance on Saturday, February 10, from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Admission is \$5 per person and there will be a cash bar and light refreshments. Non-alcoholic drinks will be available.

For the location of the dance or details about becoming involved in GWSP, call (901) 327-6165. •

Murfreesboro

MTSU Lambda to host statewide lesbian/gay gathering

The Lambda Association of Middle Tennessee State University will host Tennessee's first statewide gay and lesbian picnic weekend, April 7-8 at Cedars of Lebanon State Park in Lebanon.

"The gay '90s are here and we look forward to uniting in April to advance our cause," said Dan Webster, the group's secretary.

The two-day event will be held at the Group Lodge of the park, located just off Interstate 40 in Lebanon. The event will include overnight accommodations, dinner and breakfast, hiking, softball, volleyball, campfire, after-dinner entertainment and a late-night dance. On Sunday morning, a seminar will be held to discuss the goals and issues affecting the Tennessee lesbian and gay community.

Cost is \$12 per person or \$20 per couple. Those attending are asked to bring their own bed linens and towels and wash cloths.

Representatives and members of all lesbian and gay groups and organizations throughout the state are invited to take part in the two-day conference.

Advance registrations should be mailed by March 24 to: The Lambda Association of MTSU, P.O. Box 624, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37132. For more information, call Webster at (615) 896-9541. •

Nashville

Computer network opens lines to lesbian/gay community

"Execs and Secs," a computer bulletin board service (BBS) serving the Nashville area since September, 1989, has extended an official invitation to the lesbian, gay and bisexual community to join others already on board and to express themselves freely.

The system is growing with many new features to be added in the near future. In addition to the existing Alternative Lifestyles conference, there are plans to create areas of exclusive access for lesbians and gay men and a computerized matchmaker dating service.

To gain access, users should configure their computer modem settings to word size of 8 bits, no parity, and stop bit of 1. The computer phone line is (615) 331-1054. Baud rates of 2400, 1200 and 300 are supported 24 hours per day. New registrations can usually be confirmed within 24 hours.

There is no charge for using the service and the use of a pseudonym assures anonymity to

those who wish it.

Execs and Secs is an adult-exclusive BBS; minors are not allowed on the system. •

Pulaski

KKK tries to ensnare gay groups

Nashville's morning newspaper, THE TENNESSEAN, last week reported that Ku Klux Klan organizers has attempted to link lesbian and gay rights groups to a brotherhood march held in Pulaski earlier this month.

"Pulaski was going to let AIDS-infested faggots and queers march, but not white Christians," said Klan organizer Scott Shepherd. "We wanted to use that against them."

He said that another Klan member contacted the organizers of Pulaski's brotherhood march last November, claiming to represent three lesbian/gay groups wanting to take part in the march.

THE TENNESSEAN also reported that a message left on the answering machine of Nashville's Gay Cable Network (GCN), inviting the group to participate in the march was also the work of Klan sympathizers. •

Sewanee

Noël Coward's 'Private Lives' to open at University of the South

Noël Coward's classic comedy, PRIVATE LIVES, will be presented by the theatre department at the University of the South, February 1-3 at 8 p.m. in Guerry Auditorium on campus.

The Sewanee production of the comedy, which premiered in 1930, will feature Peter Smith as Elyot and Karen Pelfrey as Amanda. Smith, chair of the theatre department, appeared last season as Sparger in KENNEDY'S CHILDREN. Before moving to Sewanee, Smith worked as a professional actor, director and designer in theatre and film. Pelfrey also appeared in KENNEDY'S CHILDREN, playing the role of the Marilyn Monroe character, Carla.

Directed by senior theatre major Laura Lancaster Hill, admission is free. For further information, phone (615) 598-1226. •



Peter Marshall and Patty McCormack start the gossip in Neil Simon's *RUMORS*, presented by Tennessee Performing Arts Center February 27 to March 4. Marshall is best known as the former host of *HOLLYWOOD SQUARES*, McCormack for her role in *THE BAD SEED*. For tickets, call (615) 741-2787. Ticket prices range from \$11.50 to \$26.50. — DARE FILE PHOTO

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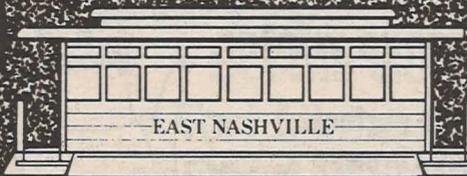
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Dare

Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly

How to survive winter.

January is the perfect time to drop in and browse for a good book, like *Franny, the Queen of Provincetown*, the classic novel by John Preston (paperback, \$4.95) or Robbi Summers' *Pleasures* (paperback, \$8.95). While you're in, pick up the latest of the greatest: *New York's Outweek* or *The Village Voice*, Boston's *Gay Community News*, Los Angeles' *The Advocate*,



and of course, Tennessee's own *Dare*. Visit our resource room, and relax with a complimentary cup of brew. We now have lots of lesbian and gay books — more titles every day — to choose from, so come on in and check out the selection.

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O N S T A G E

Recalling the past

OLD TIMES. By Harold Pinter. Directed by Lane Wright. Actor's Playhouse of Nashville. Through February 3
reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**

Editor

HAROLD PINTER'S plays are an acquired taste, what with their pregnant pauses and dramatic symbolism.

Often, audiences leave the theatre with a look of bemused disenchantment (or enchantment, whichever the case may be) as they struggle to find the real and imagined meanings of Pinter's characters and situations.

Such is the aftermath of Pinter's *OLD TIMES*, currently on the boards at Actor's Playhouse of Nashville. Performed by a talented cast (Jenny Wallace, Robert Hiers and Arita Trahan) under the capable direction of Lane Wright, *OLD TIMES* presents in its own odd fashion a theatrical conundrum: what is this all about?

Obviously, it's about failed dreams and the recollections of younger days. But presented by the playwright as it is, *OLD TIMES*

seems to be a protracted Obsession commercial, the characters posed in the stylized manner of a Calvin Klein ad campaign. It's all terribly affected and more than a little contrived, perhaps more like a *SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE* takeoff on an Obsession ad.

Ostensibly, the plot concerns three people gathered at a farmhouse on the English coast in September, 1971. Kate and Deeley (Wallace and Hiers), married for several years, are anticipating the arrival of Kate's old roommate Anna (Trahan), also married and living in Sicily.

Anna's visit and the accompanying remi-

niscences bring forth all manner of sidelong glances and meaningful pauses as only Pinter can write them.

Throughout, there are unanswered questions: were Kate and Anna once lovers? Were Deeley and Anna lovers? Is Anna dead? Is Kate dead? Is this all a dream?

Frankly, I don't know and don't much care. I think Pinter is ridiculous, a sort of intellectual's intellectual who writes difficult to understand plays as a sort of mental exercise. But if you don't really know what a play's about, what good does it do? Sure, it is a superb acting exercise, and Wallace, Hiers and Trahan are compelling performers who do wonders with their characters, but it's not really entertaining.

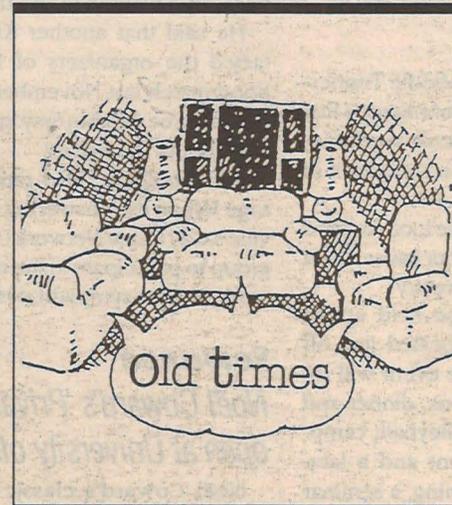
The play's opening is so Pinteresque — its pauses so typical of his work — that it's funny for reasons I'm sure the playwright didn't mean.

Wright's direction is very even-handed, perhaps even lyrical, with an eye toward visual composition.

WALLACE AND TRAHAN give riveting, richly drawn performances and Hiers' somewhat tentative beginning evolves into an effective display of talent.

Set Design by Wright and Rick Harrell is understated and evocative, while Bryan Binkley's costumes and hair design are perfect for the play's time frame and setting.

But I think I'd rather stay home and watch a few commercials. •



Upcoming at the Looby

ARTISTS' Cooperative Theatre I (ACT I) will present *THE LION IN WINTER*, February 1-10 at Nashville's Z. Alexander Looby Theatre on MetroCenter Boulevard, across from Fountain Square.

In its successful premiere production of T. S. Eliot's *MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL*, ACT I late last year presented the story of Henry II, King of England and Sir Thomas Beckett.

THE LION IN WINTER, gives further dramatic credence to the story of Henry II and his marriage to Eleanor of Aquitaine and the battles for land acquisitions which continued for generations.

Henry and Eleanor will be played by Rob Daniel and Peg Allen, who played opposite each other in last year's Nashville Public Theatre production of *THE CAVEDWELLERS*.

Tickets are \$7, with group rates available, and parking in the Looby Theatre lot is attended. For reservations, call (615) 885-5821.

Following *THE LION IN WINTER* on the Looby stage will be the Nashville Shakespeare Festival production of Charles Copenhaver's *KNOT I LAND*, February 15-24.

KNOT I LAND is a multi-media production starring Denice Hicks and Mark Cabus. Christopher Knowles will create the elaborate soundscape for the production, with the set designed by Rhode Island-based sculptor and performance artist Bob Rizzo.

KNOT I LAND was first produced in 1976 in Strasbourg, France, with an all American cast. The Nashville Shakespeare Festival production will be the American premiere of the work.

THE WORK'S major theme is regeneration: of the individual, of society and the environment. Much of *KNOT I LAND* is visual images created by the interaction of the actors with the set, projections and lighting.

Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door. For reservations, call (615) 758-7559. •



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The Children

by
JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Long ago I made a rule not to return to finished work; communion with what was ended seemed to me unhealthy," Lillian Hellman wrote in January, 1942, almost eight years after the production of her first play that established her reputation and led to her later theatrical success.

Hellman's first play to be produced on Broadway was *THE CHILDREN'S HOUR*, a controversial drama in three acts, which dealt in frank terms, given the morés of 1934, with a subject long considered taboo in the theatre — lesbianism. In today's climate, Hellman's treatment of her characters' sexuality is considered tame and somewhat stilted. After all, the word "lesbian" is never uttered. Rather, the characters discuss rather obliquely one woman's affection for another, endowing the work with language that borders on the stilted.

"THERE ARE, OF COURSE, many things wrong with *THE CHILDREN'S HOUR*," Hellman wrote in 1942, in the introduction to a collection of four of her plays, published by The Modern Library.

But Hellman admitted in that introduction that, prior to reading the proofs for that book, she had never read the plays before, "nor, beyond

the rehearsal period, have I ever seen them played through. I had, of course, read parts of the plays — always the parts I liked, and I have seen parts of the plays once they had opened — always the part I liked."

Hellman, who died in 1984 at the age of 79, also wrote *THE LITTLE FOXES*, *WATCH ON THE RHINE*, *ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST*, *THE AUTUMN GARDEN* and *TOYS IN THE ATTIC*.

SINCE THE FUROR CAUSED ON Broadway by Hellman's play in 1934 (starring future Oscar winner Anne Revere, Katherine Emery and Robert Keith and produced and directed by longtime Hellman associate Herman Shumlin), it has been adapted for film twice. The first film version — called *THESE THREE* — from Samuel Goldwyn's independent studio in 1934, was directed by William Wyler and starred Merle Oberon, Miriam Hopkins and Joel McCrea.

From a screenplay written by Hellman herself, director Wyler and photographer Gregg Toland crafted an effective film despite censorship which demanded that no mention be made of a lesbian relationship between the two women.

The second movie version —

called *THE CHILDREN'S HOUR* — also directed by Wyler, was made in 1963, with a cast that included Shirley MacLaine, Audrey Hepburn and James Garner. While it remained faithful to Hellman's original work, it was a flop at the box office and was sniped at by critics for the moralistic tone of its conclusion.

The play's conclusion — as well as that of the 1963 film version — brings about the suicide of one character, not because she is a lesbian, but because she realizes she had lesbian thoughts for another woman.

"Lillian had written a slow examination of one woman's personal growth in the area of falling in love with another woman," MacLaine told a reporter. "But Willie Wyler didn't want that, and that's why the story didn't work on film."

"IT TOOK A YEAR AND A HALF of stumbling stubbornness to do the play," Hellman said. "I remembered, in the hodge-podge that came back..., how many times I tore it up, how many characters I took out and put back and took out again; how I reached back into my own childhood and found the day I finished *Mlle. de Maupin*; the day I faked a heart attack; the day I saw an

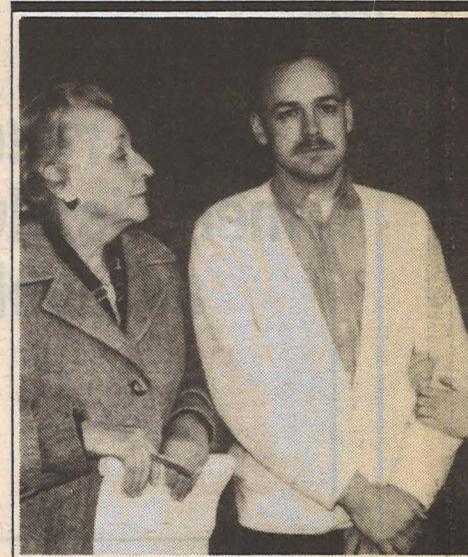
arm gettwisted. And I thought again of the world of the half-remembered, the half-observed, the half-understood which you need so much as you begin to write."

The plot of Hellman's play concerns two women — Martha Dobie and Karen Wright — who run a boarding school for girls in a small New England village. One of the girls, Mary Tilford, in a spiteful rage tells her grandmother the two women are lovers. What ensues represents the far-reaching effects of gossip and innuendo, ultimately ending with the women's financial and social ruin and one's death.

"The theme of *THE CHILDREN'S HOUR* was good and evil," Hellman said. "The play probably should have ended with the suicide: the last scene is tense and over-burdened. I knew this at the time, but I could not help myself. I am a moral writer, often too moral a writer, and I cannot avoid, it seems, that last summing-up.

"I think that is only a mistake when it fails to achieve its purpose,

One of the girls, Mary Tilford, in a spiteful rage, tells her grandmother the two women are lovers. What ensues represents the far-reaching effects of gossip and innuendo, ultimately ending with the women's financial and social ruin and one's death.



The cast of Lakewood Theatre's production of *THE CHILDREN'S HOUR*. — DARE STAFF

R P I E C E

Children's Hour

and I would rather make the attempt, and fail, than fail to make the attempt."

Subsequent stage adaptations of Hellman's first success have generally fallen to small professional companies and the occasional production by community theatres, much like the production which opens tonight at Lakewood Community Theatre in Lakewood.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF Genia Shipman, the community theatre group will, for the next three weekends, give their own interpretation of Hellman's play.

The cast includes Tracy Morell, Teresa Nelson, Keith Beagan, Jesse Raye, Helen Aikins and a cast of seven adolescents including Molly McCann as Mary and Leslie Holmes as Rosalie. Whether the show will be accepted by local audiences remains to be seen.

"I think it's very exciting we're doing in this in a theatre that is more accustomed to doing fluff, comedies," Beagan said.

"I think it's great that they [the Lakewood Theatre board of directors] are letting us to do it such a dramatic work with such a controversial subject."

Despite the play's age, first produced on Broadway as it was in 1934, Shipman and her cast feel the plot and characterizations more than compensate for Hellman's somewhat dated language.

"I think it's very relevant to today's audiences," Shipman said. "Just last week a Fox TV series, 21 JUMP STREET, which has always been on the cutting edge of what is timely and topical, did an episode that dealt with a character's confusion with her sexuality. What that character went through is similar to what the characters in THE CHILDREN'S HOUR go through. Even though the show is almost 60 years old, it's still relevant, especially here in the South.

"That's because there are people, perhaps more in the South, who think certain things are bad simply because they've been taught they are bad and don't consider the consequences of their actions when they judge someone."

Beagan agreed: "There seems to be more awareness of lesbian and gay issues among the public and because of that the play's theme is

relevant.

"I hope that people won't look at it as a story about lesbians, because it's much more than that. It's not really a story of good versus evil, as Hellman suggested, because evil ultimately wins out. I think it's a story of how ill-founded, and unfounded, gossip can really destroy someone's life."

IN LATER YEARS, HELLMAN, talking about the play, said it isn't about lesbianism at all: rather, it is about a lie.

"It is about a lie, spread for vicious reasons," Shipman said. "The play does deal with the question of good versus evil and the dangers of making unfounded accusations."

"Often it seems that people who are wrongly accused in this country have a more difficult time proving their innocence. We're taught that people are innocent until proven guilty."

"But, unfortunately, it doesn't always work that way."

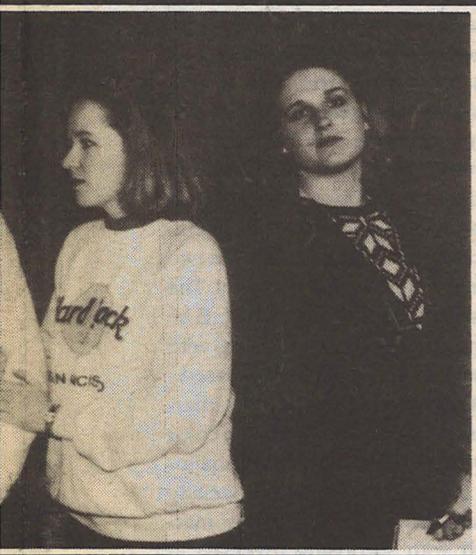
The Lakewood Theatre production of THE CHILDREN'S HOUR runs January 26-February 9, with curtain at 8 p.m. for evening performances, 2:30 p.m. for Sunday matinees.

For reservations, call the theatre, located at 2211 Hadley Avenue in Lakewood, at (615) 847-0934. •



Helen Aikins as Ameila Tilford. — DARE STAFF PHOTO BY JIMMY CHILDERS

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THE CHILDREN'S HOUR includes (left to right) Helen Aikins, Keith Beagan. — DARE STAFF PHOTO BY JIMMY CHILDERS

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PAGES

Considering Mishima

ACTS OF WORSHIP: SEVEN STORIES. Yukio Mishima. Translated by John Bester.

Tokyo: Kodansha, 1989. \$17.95.

reviewed by **JOE MAROHL**

IT WAS ALMOST 20 years ago that Yukio Mishima, the famed Japanese novelist, committed *seppuku* in formal protest of the increasing democratization of Japan. In accordance with tradition, his samurai-lover decapitated him to complete the gesture. The gesture, incomprehensible to most Westerners, was simultaneously political and personal in nature and ended a nearly 25 year career as his nation's most famous writer.

Mishima did more than write fiction. He was chief member of a right-wing political group which demanded the reinstatement of traditional Japanese feudalism. He wrote, acted in and directed films and plays, and conducted a symphony. His collaboration (as nude model) with photographer Eikoh Hosoe, *ORDEAL BY ROSES* (1963), is a masterpiece of visual erotica in the twentieth century. His interest in

physicality led to further accomplishments in body-building and *kendo*, samurai-style swordplay.

For readers not already familiar with Mishima through his novels—the more well-known being *FORBIDDEN COLOURS*, *CONFESSIONS OF A MASK* and *THE DECAY OF THE ANGEL*—comes this volume of seven short stories written between 1946 and 1965, translated and introduced by John Bester.

Mishima's stories seem to be primarily concerned with the opposition of brute physicality ("that darkness of blind strength which is essentially what muscles are all about") and ineffable intellect which tends to be passive and voyeuristic ("the darkness in which he walked immersed was gradually pervading him").

His focus is strictly on the masculine temperament, which is universally dark and philosophical. The meeting of these two opposites occurs in the act of cruelty. Cruelty, in particular, is the antidote to unfeelingness, the poison of modern existence, according to Mishima.

In effect, then, cruelty may be considered an act of love and worship, as when the schoolboys reverently dismember the handsome sailor in *THE SAILOR WHO FELL FROM GRACE WITH THE SEA*.

The longest stories in this collection, "Sword" and "Act of Worship," each one a novella divided into chapters, bear these ideas out. "Sword" is a morality tale concerning physical and emotional discipline and two kinds of devotion.

The central figures are Jiro, Kagawa and Mibu, three members of a college fencing team. Jiro is the highly disciplined, stoical leader, and Kagawa and Mibu are his admiring subordinates, rivals for his respect. Kagawa, however, hides his respect beneath

a mask of effrontery, hoping to become the beloved enemy of the handsome Jiro. He believes that beneath Jiro's perfection and moral uprightness is a "need to be startled and threatened by something." Mibu, however, is abject in his worship of the older youth, wanting not only to please him but to flatter him by becoming a reflection of his excellence. The two boys' unspoken rivalry for Jiro's attention becomes the impetus for the story's ironically tragic conclusion.

Although this story concerns philosophical bonds, Mishima's language discloses a continuous subtext of eroticism: "Everywhere, the subtle play of light on young skin revealed undulations in the smooth flesh like the exposed roots of a tree."

"Act of Worship," the last story in the collection, details a unique but not altogether different relationship, be-

tween an effeminate poetry professor of about sixty and his student, a dowdy woman of about forty, who, while attending the professor's class to learn more about writing poetry, was induced into becoming his housekeeper.

The story takes place after the two have been together for ten years, when the professor unexpectedly commands the woman to accompany him on a trip to his boyhood home. Tsuneko, the woman, takes the opportunity to probe the mystery of her employer and mentor, for whom she devotedly keeps herself unattractive (lest onlookers infer that their relationship is erotic) and in whose reprimands she takes inexplicable delight. Of all the stories, this one is the least overtly erotic. Much of its imagery derives from landscape and literary allusion.

But it achieves a weird brilliance by combining romanticism and cynicism. The cruelty of these two principal characters is less brutish, not physical at all, but emotional. The two attempt to dominate each other mentally. The style of the story is more typical of E.M. Forster's writing than that of Jean Genet, with whom Mishima is often (rightly) compared.

THE REMAINING stories, no less marvellous for being brief, are charged with color and sensuality. Mishima's unabashed phallogocentrism may put off feminists — especially since women are usually treated at best marginally, though with surprising reversals in the opening and closing stories — and his pro-fascist politics, mutely evident here, is difficult for the thinking person to swallow. Masochism and cruelty are other possibly alienating effects in these tales. I would hasten to add, though, that you won't easily find erotic writing as mysterious, mildly perverse and brilliant as this anywhere this side of Oscar Wilde's *SALOMÉ*. •

Mishima did more than write fiction. He was chief member of a right-wing political group which demanded the reinstatement of traditional Japanese feudalism.



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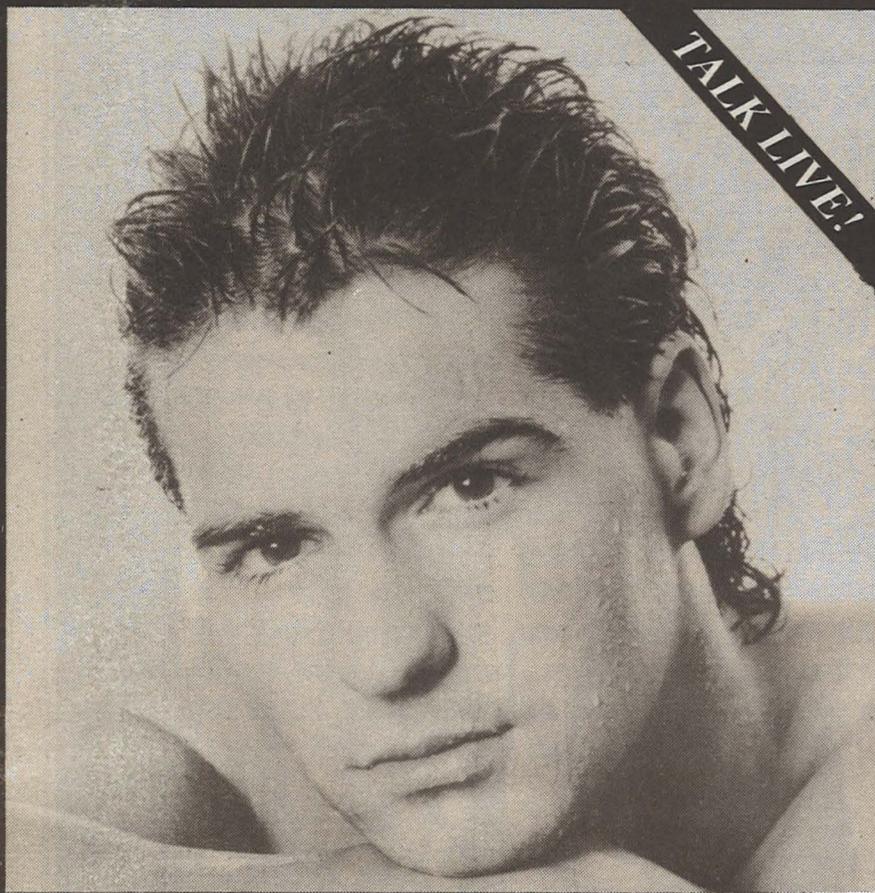
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S C R E E N S

Yankee doodle dandies

BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY. Directed by Oliver Stone. Screenplay by Oliver Stone and Ron Kovic, based on the book by Kovic. Starring Tom Cruise. 1989.

reviewed by **FLYNNE MALONE**

Staff Writer

I CAN'T REMEMBER the last time I had to look away from the screen to keep my balance, but I did more than once while watching **BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY**.

Usually I can tell myself that it's just a movie while analyzing the film techniques that are effectively working to make me uncomfortable, but **BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY** is different. Looking away doesn't help much.

The war footage is difficult enough. Director Oliver Stone (**THE HAND, SALVADOR, PLATOON, WALL STREET, TALK RADIO**) has his movie making down right. Blood packs are bitten and spurt on cue. Slow motion camera affords every detail of near-death, even turning the world upside down as Ron Kovic is carried wounded off the battlefield.

Or often the camera subjectively searches in battle confusion. Jutting here and there, trying to get a grip on the lethal chaos that is war.

Here is the worst of Viet Nam: the killing of women, children, fellow American soldiers, and the resultant moral decay that corrodes body and soul. The cries of the orphaned Vietnamese babies haunt Kovic as a crime against humanity, a parody of the voices of the children that he will never have because he will never make love to a woman.

These are the interior wounds that refuse to heal. They are evidenced by the exterior wounds of a 20-year-old boy paralyzed from the chest down.

But the VA hospital is worse still: neglect, rats, vomit, urine, excrement, malfunctioning equipment, used bodies warehoused because they aren't useful anymore.

Ron Kovic, played by Tom Cruise (**RISKY BUSINESS, TOP GUN, THE COLOR OF MONEY, TOP GUN**) emerges from all this horror, simplistically, patriotic as he was as the manchild of 18 who enlisted in the Marines right out of high school with the certain knowledge of at least one

tour of duty in Vietnam. This movie is about his depths and the illustrated ability of a human being to change when confronted with the evidence of a life, his own, that does not make sense.

The film tours us through an overbuilt

opening July 4th parade in the placed '50s, a high school prom of the '60s with "Moon River" music, through the war (shot in the Philippines), and into the patriotic war protest of civilians, and finally veterans, of the '70s. The art direction spanning these 20 years is unflinching in period conviction and detail, while the sound track recalls the eras in ways that nothing else can. John Williams' original score doesn't haunt as did the theme for

Stone's **PLATOON**, but it works well in counterpoint to the pop period offerings.

Cruise gives a daring, guts out performance that reminds me of the tormented rage of Jessica Lange playing Frances Farmer. He should at least be nominated for an Oscar, if not win one. His clean good looks as a high school graduate are perfectly suited to the simplicity of belief that unquestion-

ingly sent Kovic blindly to his hellish fate, the flames of which reached far beyond Southeast Asia.

Yet as Cruise riots against rotting in the VA hospital and then comes to comprehend the depth of protest against the war that cost him at least his legs and family, he is transformed. Through wigs and searing contempt, he takes

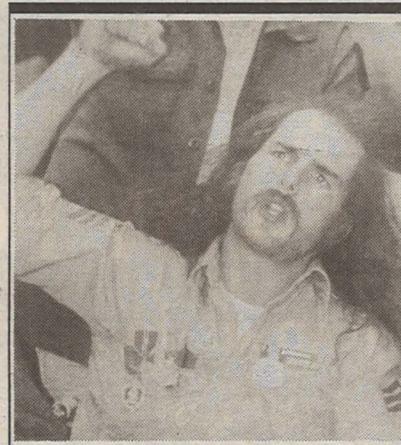
on the demeanor of a fried wizard on acid. His rage at the sacrifice of his vitality overtakes him in Mexico in some truly insane scenes with a deeply crazed fringe character played by Willem Dafoe. Mexico's tequila and bought, beautiful women provide no solace.

Slowly, Kovic finds his way to a meaning through war protests that are shot in the same disorienting style as the foreign combat footage.

The end, when he is moments from addressing the nation at the 1976 Democratic Convention, is almost anticlimactic, but I was numbed with emotion by then anyway.

It's tempting to see **BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY** as strictly an anti-war film, and to be sure, it's that. But I perceive that it is much more about finding the courage to align beliefs, experience and action in life.

This is a very powerful rendering. I highly recommend it, but be forewarned, it hard to watch. Do it. •



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Dare

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

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

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

SOAPBOX

On oppression and being a minority

by RYAN SHELLEY
Contributing Writer

WE AS HUMAN BEINGS tend to ignore injustice around us. Many times we simply accept what we are told about different groups without question. The way we view others often becomes distorted by societal norms forced into our consciousness from birth.

It is my intent to bring to realization one example of a group that has been ostracized simply because they do not fall within the confines of society's definition of normalcy. This groups claims, depending upon what criteria you use, anywhere from one-tenth to nearly a fourth of our population, yet is perhaps the least vocal — they are homosexuals.

The reasons for this repressed ambience, lie within the realm of ignorance and fear. Many of these people are unaware of their rights and still more are afraid to confront the gauntlet of homophobes that separate them from the lawmakers.

This past year, in the state of Florida, a homosexual couple was granted the right to be called family. But they still cannot legally marry, this is called the Partnership Act. Imagine this scenario: you and your lover of ten years have jointly purchased a home here in Tennessee, a car and a business.

Now let's suppose your lover, heaven forbid, is injured in an auto accident and admitted to the intensive care unit at a local hospital. You would be denied the opportunity to visit your love one because you're not considered a family member. Then the worst happens, she or he dies. While you're going through the grieving process, still angry at the world for denying you those final moments in his arms, you receive an eviction notice from your in-laws. What's this you say? Oh that's right, when together you bought your home, you had to put it solely in his name because you were not legally married. Slowly your entire world falls apart and you're left with nothing. Then you think, how could this happen in a society that claims democracy? This scenario may sound extreme, but with a few changes to protect the individuals involved, this is a true case.

Throughout the ages, many groups have been forced into submission and repression. The Bible is one of the tools that has been used to support these transgressions. The scriptures contained in his highly revered document were not intended to be used to oppress anyone. To do so, completely delineates the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is one built on a foundation of love and freedom and oppression.

Certainly, God does not condemn someone for loving another. In the New Testament there is no scripture to show us that Jesus said anything at all about homosexuality. It is misleading for homophobes to randomly select passages from the Bible without a complete understanding of what is indeed being expressed. I sincerely believe that the divinely inspired prophets who actually wrote the documents that later became what we know as the Bible, did not fully understand homosexuality.

In Leviticus 18:22, we find the following

verse: "Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind it is abomination." Notice, if you will, the masculine reference, none is made to the feminine gender. Perhaps this is due to the commonly held belief — prior to the 20th century — that women were not sexual beings, but rather just vessels for the perpetuation of the species.

This particular passage was taken from a specific group of directives called the Holiness Code. Also included in these forbidden acts are the consumption of pork and shellfish; this can be found in Leviticus 11:7-10.

In the chapter that follows, we are commanded not to have intercourse with a woman during menstruation and for certain periods post-partum. These verses clearly express the misconceptions that were widely accepted during the period the scriptures were being transcribed. I find it peculiar that modern theologians ignore the passages on the eating of pork and intercourse during menstruation, yet so adamantly adhere to the written word in regards to homosexuality.

Modern medicine has shown us the reasons for the establishment of the laws described previously. However, with the invention of refrigeration and adequate cooking techniques, these laws regarding food consumption are obsolete. Also, we now understand that the period of menstruation that a woman must endure is indeed not a curse, but simply the sloughing off of the uterine lining, due to an unfertilized ovum.

Why is it that we cannot recognize that the scriptures written about homosexuality are also no longer applicable? The example most frequently used to support the stance that homosexuality is a sin is the Sodom and Gomorrah story in Genesis

19:1-13. There is actually nothing to indicate sexuality in these passages, except when Lot offers unto the men of the city, his virgin daughters and even this is unclear, because then Lot goes unto his son-in-laws. So this leads us to believe that Lot either had other married daughters or his daughters were married virgins. The passage really is not very clear.

Other scriptures in the Bible refer to these two cities as proud, rude and inhospitable, examples of which can be found in Luke 10:10-12 and Ezekiel 16:48-59. There is nothing whatsoever to indicate that the annihilation of these cities was a result of sexual conviction.

A final verse commonly used to oppress the gay world is found in Romans 1:21-32. Here we find a group of idolaters that God has given "up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves." This passage really does not even deal with homosexuality, at least not as we understand it.

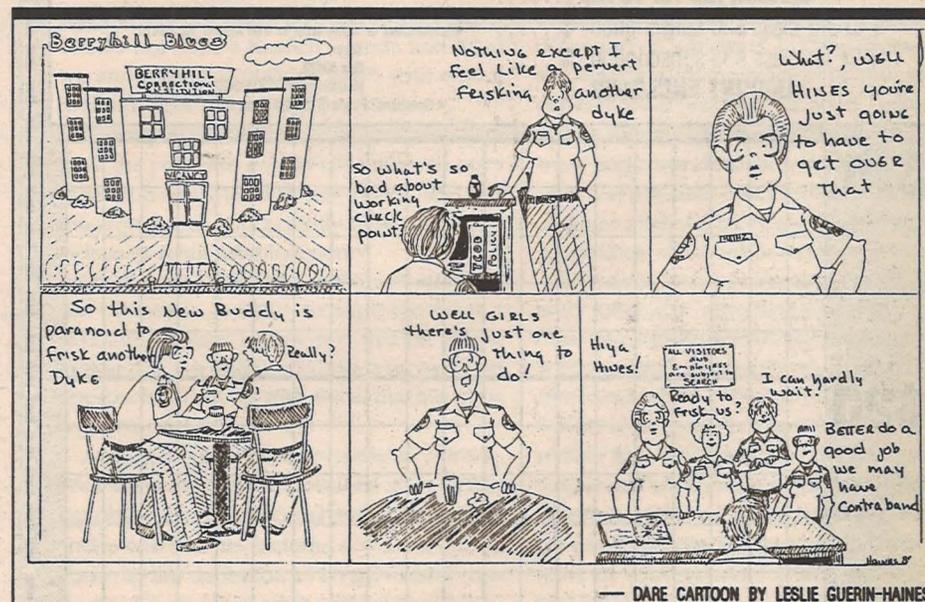
Two verses less commonly addressed are found in I Timothy 1:10 and I Corinthians 6:9.

The first of these two deals with acts of violence and criminal misconduct, while the second makes brief mention of effeminate nature, but this is not a clear passage as to what was truly meant. Neither of these passages even apply to the gay lifestyle we know today.

The backbone of prejudice is ignorance. What we do not understand, we despise. The homosexual lifestyle actually varies little from that of a heterosexual.

Two beings, regardless of their external genitalia, are capable of sharing a bond that far surpasses mortal comprehension. •

The backbone of prejudice is ignorance. What we do not understand, we despise... Two beings are capable of sharing a bond that far surpasses mortal comprehension.



— DARE CARTOON BY LESLIE GUERIN-HAINES

LOOSE LIPS

Playing cops and robbers



Sylvester Stallone — DARE FILE PHOTO

"[It is] two modern-day gladiators whipping their chiffon into a frenzy."
 — **Sylvester Stallone**, describing the plot of his movie **TANGO AND CASH**, co-starring Kurt Russell.

"TANGO AND CASH closes out a decade of cinema as 1989's most insensitive and homophobic film."
 — **Jack Sturday**, film critic for Florida's **THE WEEKLY NEWS**, in his review of the Stallone-Russell film.

"This film were better titled **BIMBO AND TRASH**. And if you stumble into the theatre and are grossly repelled by the sick 'fag' and 'dyke' jokes drop a line to Warner Brothers head of publicity Stu Gottesman. His address is: Warner Brothers Inc., 4000 Warner Blvd, Burbank, California 91522. Make a difference in 1990. And let that be your New Year's resolution. No stars!"
 — **More from Jack Sturdy**.

"Question: My husband persists in walking around the house naked. He will stand in the bathroom with no clothes on and shave, brush his teeth, and comb his hair with absolutely no modesty. I have discussed this with my family, and we are fearful that he is homosexual. What should I do?"
 "Answer: You and your family need counseling!"
 — **From the legal advice column appearing in a Baton Rouge, Louisiana, newspaper**.

"It is a not a bad time to be a Christian. Our enemies are out of the closet; they are all in the open now."
 — **From syndicated columnist Patrick Buchanan's tirade against the protest at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral, calling for action against John Cardinal O'Connor's stands against homosexuality and abortion**.

"Buchanan's veiled threat harkens back to the church's former habit of forcibly stifling all dissent. Carelessly, Buchanan encourages the wave of violence against gays and lesbians — 70 of whom were murdered last year. Mean-

while, the Cardinal uses his considerable influence against condom use and safe abortion; the policy claims even more lives."
 — **S.A. McDermott**, responding to Buchanan's column, in a letter to Nashville's **THE TENNESSEAN**.

"Not long after the dominoes began falling in Eastern Europe, **PLAYBOY** magazine announced it had become the first 'American consumer magazine' to be published in Hungarian.

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"More like an American nightmare, since many of those who embraced the **PLAYBOY** philosophy of 'if it feels good, do it' have suffered borken marriages, unwanted pregnancies, abortion and AIDS.

"If Eastern Europe thought communism was a difficult yoke to bear, wait until it gets a sample of Western-style hedonism."

— **Arch-conservative columnist Cal Thomas** — himself the cause of countless nightmares — writing in his syndicated column.

"It was started during World War II by the Nazis, who forced homosexual inmates in German prisons to wear pink triangles on their uniforms. The ACLU recently discovered a revival of the practice by jailers in Polk County, Florida, who 'pink tag' (their term, not ours) inmates revealed as gay in the course of entry interviews. The measure has been in force for ten years.

"Several female inmates wrote to the ACLU, protesting that 'pink taggers' are discriminated against: deprived of such privileges as equal recreation time and trustee status, harassed by guards, and some are heterosexuals who have been 'tagged' as a form of punishment."

— **Robyn E. Blummer**, executive director of the **American Civil Liberties Union of Florida**, writing in **CIVIL LIBERTIES**.

"It's not that we weren't an appreciative audience, but it struck us as an unusual underwear choice for an otherwise conservative cop."

— **A PREMIERE magazine commentary about the black bikini briefs worn by Tom Hanks in the film comedy, TURNER AND HOOC**.

"Cher's gay daughter hit by new heartache — parents cut lesbian lover off without a cent."

— **The latest on Chastity Bono from the supermarket tabloid, THE STAR**.

"I was upset with Cher's reaction to her daughter Chastity's being a lesbian. It's terribly important for Cher to be understanding at this time.

"When my own beautiful daughter told me the same news, I was stunned.

"But I will always love her always stand by her."

— **"A Loving Mom in Minnesota"** writing to **THE STAR**.

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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

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Miss Gay Tennessee USA 1990

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