

Memphis's new
outdoor group—and more!
Dates, page 2.

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VOLUME 3, NUMBER 5

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

FEBRUARY 2, 1990

McDonald bans peep shows in Knoxville

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Chancellor Frederick McDonald last week banned pornographic peep shows in Knox County but did allow four businesses to re-open and resume selling adult books and magazines.

The stores were padlocked in April, 1989, after McDonald ruled they were public nuisances which posed "a serious danger" to public health. In his ruling last year, McDonald called the stores "public sex houses."

Knox County district attorney Ed Dossett, who brought the lawsuit to have the stores closed, last Thursday reiterated his claim that peep shows are public health hazards due to sex acts in unclean private viewing booths.

McDonald said the condition of the bookstores' film viewing booths poses "a serious danger to public health...There is a reasonable expectation that AIDS can be spread, as well as syphilis and gonorrhea and hepatitis."

In a similar case in Nashville, U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Higgins, in a 60-page opinion issued last July, enjoined Metro officials from enforcing an ordinance which had required the removal of doors from private viewing booths and subjected bookstore employees to extensive background checks.

• continued on page 6



Grace Jones, diva, singer and entertainer, is considered by experts a professional in the world of camp. For more about camp humor and how to recognize it, read this week's Centerpiece, page 8. — DARE FILE PHOTO

T-GALA elects Rubinfeld, Fisher co-chairs

Plans include hiring full-time executive director by Pride '90

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Attorney Abby Rubinfeld, former legal director for the New York-based Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, has been elected co-chair of the Tennessee

Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) following a vote by members of the board of directors on January 24.

"We have a good group of people involved in T-GALA," Rubinfeld said. "There seems to have been a resurgence of energy."

Elected to serve with Rubinfeld as co-chair was Greg Fisher, a Vanderbilt University staff member. Both Rubinfeld and Fisher are members of the board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

Devie Levin was elected treasurer of T-GALA and Penny Campbell was named secretary by board members.

Board members themselves were elected by a vote of the general membership of T-GALA at a meeting earlier this year. Although based in Nashville, the group is working toward development of a statewide lesbian and gay organization.

"We were able to establish some very important committees," Campbell explained. "The development committee will devise some thorough fund-raising plans."

One of the group's goals is to hire a full-time executive director, Campbell said, and some \$30,000 is needed to fund that position.

Among plans discussed by the development committee are a major donor program and a direct mail campaign. Further, board members will seek other funds, including grants from foundations and agencies.

Rubinfeld said board members hope to announce the name of the new executive director during Pride Week 1990 activities.

Development committee co-chair Debra Alberts said discussions of fund-raising efforts have included everything from movie nights, a tour of homes, a cruise on the Cumberland River and a formal dinner/dance.

"We want to include a wide variety of fund-raising events to attract more people," she explained.

"We're hoping to make the programs so diverse that we can do something for all segments of the gay and lesbian community."

• continued on page 6

Vandy policy to change?

CAB recommends including sexual orientation in non-discrimination policy

from STAFF REPORTS

After more than a year of hearings and deliberations, members of a subcommittee on sexual orientation and minority harassment have recommended to the Vanderbilt University Community Affairs Board that the institution revise its policies to ensure equal treatment for persons of all sexual orientations.

In a 300-page report presented to university officials last week, subcommittee members recommended that language be added to the current policy that says, "Vanderbilt University does not discriminate because of sexual orientation (homosexual, bisexual or heterosexual) in its admissions, employment, or student programs and activities."

The subcommittee was empaneled during spring, 1988, as the result of a formal request made to the CAB by the Vanderbilt Lambda Association, the campus lesbian, gay and bisexual organization.

The CAB, representing all segments of the university and having the functions of registering campus organizations and appointing study committees to offer recommendations on major non-academic policy changes, was asked in 1988 by Lambda to support a resolution to

have the university's non-discrimination policy expanded to protect lesbians and gay men.

The CAB approved the resolution but also appointed the subcommittee "to evaluate from every angle" the passage of such a policy change, according to K.C. Potter, chair of the subcommittee and Dean of Residential and Judicial Affairs, in an interview last year.

The report issued last week concluded that the general tone on campus is one of intolerance.

"The atmosphere at Vanderbilt is accurately described as homophobic."

"There is not just a prejudice against homosexuals, but a hostility which results in abuse of one form or another," the report states.

"Homosexuals who are identified receive obscene, threatening phone calls, and may suffer physical or verbal abuse," the report continued.

The report was derived from research and from testimony during a series of hearings held on campus last spring.

Included in the report was a copy of a report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that says lesbian and gay youth are at greater risk for suicide than are heterosexual youth. •

Just the facts:

AIDS cases reported
in Tennessee,
by age group

< 13 • 14

13-19 • 7

20-29 • • • • • 271

30-39 • • • • • 452

40-49 • • • • • 174

> 50 • • 93

• = 50 reported cases of AIDS

Tennessee's Department of Health and Environment has released figures on the number of new cases of AIDS reported in the state through the end of 1989. Nearly half the cases reported have been between 30 and 39 years old. — DARE STAFF GRAPHIC

INSIDE Dare this week

Did someone say free personals?
Funny you should ask.
Market, page 11.



Banal, boring and insipid...
You get the idea.
Screens, page 12.



Yellow is definitely
your color, Manuel!
Loose Lips, page 16.



D A T E S

Big events

The Great
OUTdoors

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 GAY MALE SEXUALITY: OUR SEARCH FOR PERFECTION. Black and White Men Together / Memphis. 7:30pm. Info (901) 726-1461.

Wednesday, February 7

Special Presentation ON SAFER SEX. For lesbian and gay youth. Sponsored by One in Teen, Nashville. 6:30pm. Info (615) 297-0008 or 885-5054.

Saturday, February 10

Brunch/Outing Brunch at Applebee's, 2114 Union Av, Memphis. 1pm. Tour new Brooks Museum of Art. 2:30pm. Black and White Men Together / Memphis. Space limited, please register. Info (901) 726-1461.

Dance Gay Women's Social Group Valentine's Dance. Cash bar, light refreshments.\$5. 7:30pm. Info (901) 327-6165.

Dance Party VALENTINE'S DANCE PARTY. Sponsored by University of Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Student Union. 8pm. Info (615) 595-8686.

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.

Monday, February 12

Film THE TIMES OF HARVEY MILK. At The Black and The Read, below Laurel Theatre, 16th & Laurel, Knoxville. Free. 8pm. Info (615) 522-0741.

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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

Fridays

- **MTSU Lambda** Support group for lesbian and gay students, faculty, staff and alumni of Middle Tennessee State University. 6pm. Info (615) 352-7039

Nashville

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

- **Nashville CARES** HIV+ Support Group. 6pm. Info (615) 385-1510.
- **Al-Anon** Closed meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.
- **Nashville Women's Alliance** Meeting, at the Book Oasis, 2824 Dogwood Pl. 3rd and 4th Tuesdays only. 7:30pm. Info (615) 883-4833.
- **P-FLAG** Meeting of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 4th Tuesday only. Unitarian Church. 7:30pm. Info (615) 662-0332.
- **Sober Sisters** (Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, MCC. 8pm.
- **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.
- **One in Teen** Support group for lesbian and gay teens. 6:30pm. Info (615) 885-5054 or GALLIP Hotline (615) 297-0008.
- **Affirmation** Meeting for lesbian and gay United Method-

ists. 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.
- **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.

Errata

• In last week's Local Color story on Memphis' Gay Women's Social Group (Vol. 3, No. 4, p. 5), the group's acronym was incorrect. It should have been "GWSG."

• An item in last week's Loose Lips (Vol. 3, No. 5, p. 15) was incorrect due to a typographical error. It should have read: "TANGO AND CASH closes out a decade of cinema as 1989's most insensitive and homophobic film." — Jack Sturdy, film critic for Florida's THE WEEKLY NEWS, in his review of the Stallone-Russell film.

• We apologize for the errors and are glad to correct the record.

LOCAL COLOR

compiled from **STAFF REPORTS**

Memphis

ACLU plans skill workshop

"What can you do to keep abortion legal and safe?" will be the topic for the latest in a series of political skills workshops offered statewide by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Tennessee and Tennesseans Keeping Abortions Legal and Safe (TKALS).

The workshop will be held Saturday, February 10, at 766 Highland Avenue in Memphis, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Persons attending are asked to bring a brown bag lunch.

Local legislators have been invited to attend the meeting to discuss their views on the issue.

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

New gay drama in production

Rehearsals are under way for the upcoming production of *BATTLE SCARS*, a new drama by local playwright Den-Nickolas Smith. Production dates have been set for March 18-20 at Theatre Works, 414 S. Main, in Memphis.

BATTLE SCARS explores personal relationships on several levels, according to the playwright. On one level it questions the amount of compromise required in any relationship; on another level, just how different is this compromising in a gay male relationship; and on a deeper level, how the leather lifestyle affects relationships, compromise and co-dependency.

The play asks the questions "Is there a leather type?" and "Where do role playing, caring and co-dependency overlap and how much does a certain amount of sexual fantasy contribute?"

Memphis' three leather organizations — Tsarus, Wings, Women of Leather — have been approached to sponsor the theatre rental for the three performances. Women of Leather have committed to sponsor the third evening, with the other clubs still to address the question at future meetings.

One performance will benefit the recently opened Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

The cast, under the direction of the playwright and Vincent Astor, are Kerrel Ard, Matt Presley, Vance Reger, Dennis Smith and Bret Taylor. •

Third Friday coffeehouse raises \$171 for MGLCC

January's Third Friday coffeehouse, held at the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, raised \$171 for the MGLCC operating fund, according to Julie Wheeler, who served as emcee for the event.

Produced by Feminist Productions, the performers included Alex Green, Linda Heck and Nicole Robinette. The event was held January 19. •

Nashville

T-GALA sets "Out and About Ball"

Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) will host its third annual "Out and About Ball" on Wednesday, February 14, at

7:30 p.m.

The event will be held at the new Journey Restaurant and Lounge at 909 Church Street, Nashville. Admission is \$4 per person. Phil Thomas, one of the event's co-chairs said appetizers would be served and a photographer would be available to document the evening for those interested.

T-GALA's first Out and About Ball was held in 1988 at the Gas Lite Lounge of the Town House Tea Room and the 1989 event was held at Warehouse 28. •

Volunteers needed for prison workshop

Women volunteers are needed for a course in positive decision-making and life-planning skills at the Tennessee Women's Prison.

Volunteers are sought to work one-on-one with a prisoner/partner for an hour weekly during the eight-week course, February 5-April 2.

For information, call (615) 383-6393. •

YWCA offers assertiveness course

Dr. Gloria Calhoun, a psychotherapist/management consultant, will help participants in an assertiveness skills training workshop identify blocks to assertive behavior and develop skills.

Sponsored by the Nashville YWCA, the workshop will be held February 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. Fee for the workshop is \$65.

For more information, call the YWCA at (615) 269-9922. •

Tri-Cities

MCC to celebrate Valentine's Day

Metropolitan Community Church of the Tri-Cities will host a covered dish dinner in celebration of Valentine's Day on Sunday, February 11, according to Tam Schult, MCC pastor.

The following Sunday, on February 18, the MCC board of directors will hold their regularly scheduled meeting.

For information about MCC and its upcoming events, call (615) 926-4393. •



Rebecca Baxter stars as Christine Daaé in Ken Hill's *THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA* which will be presented at Nashville's Tennessee Performing Arts Center March 13-15 and Knoxville's Civic Center March 17-19. For tickets to the TPAC performance, call (615) 741-2787.

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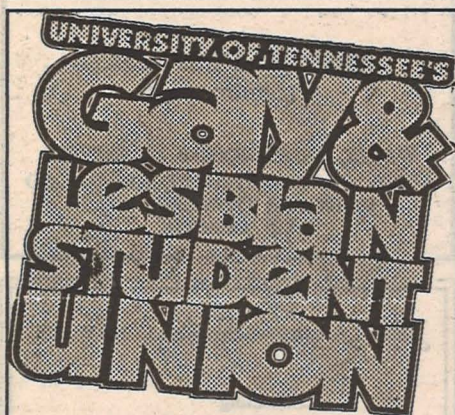
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Juanita's B A R

Zipper Softball Sign-up Party

Sunday, February 4

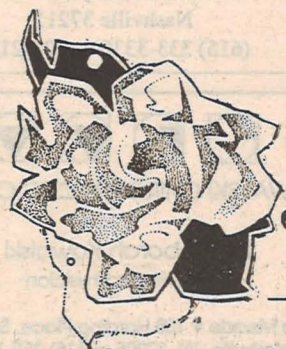
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CROSS COUNTRY

compiled from **STAFF REPORTS**

Lambda protests N. J. police rest stop racket

NEW YORK — Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund filed a "friend of the court" brief in two criminal cases in New Jersey, protesting an operation by New Jersey State Police that has victimized hundreds of men over several years.

The brief, written on behalf of a coalition that includes the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, the Anti-Violence Project of the New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition and the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, urges the court to consider the two cases in the context of the others that have occurred as a part of the police crackdown.

Between February, 1988 and October, 1989, at least 540 men were arrested at the Vince Lombardi Rest Stop and charged under a New Jersey criminal statute for "lewdness." Only eight of the cases have been dismissed.

Most of the men, termed "first offenders" and residents of other states, were each fined \$805. As of October, 1989, the township of Ridgfield has received more than \$200,000 in fines. •

NGLTF taps Grant

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Jaime Grant, a fund-raising professional and political activist from Pennsylvania, has been named development director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

Grant, 28, has been active in feminist and lesbian and gay organizing efforts in central Pennsylvania for several years. Before joining NGLTF, she was assistant director of development at Bucknell University and raised funds at the state and local levels for battered women's shelters and rape crisis programs.

"I am very excited to be applying the experience I've gained as a fundraiser in traditional and progressive settings to the work that is nearest and dearest to my heart — the gay and lesbian civil rights movement," Grant said.

Grant said her first priority will be to develop a plan for short- and long-term growth at NGLTF. •

NCBLG calls for national day of remembrance

DETROIT — February 25, 1990, has been designated as a "National Day of Remembrance" by the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays to honor the memory of the late Joseph Beam and other black lesbians and gay men who have died.

Beam, board member of NCBLG and the founding editor of *BLACK/OUT*, died in December, 1988. Since then, poet Pat Parker and District of Columbia activist Lawrence Washington have died.

NCBLG chapters and affiliates throughout the country will observe the day with various activities. •

ABA bans anti-gay bias

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Successful lobbying by members of the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (NLGLA) has resulted in

the American Bar Association's inclusion of a ban against anti-gay discrimination in the court systems.

During a press conference held last week in front of the District of Columbia Court House, spokespersons said the ABA has included the ban against discrimination based on sexual orientation in its draft Model Code of Judicial Conduct. Specific protection in the code means that lesbians and gay men can expect and demand fair treatment in the judicial system.

The code applies to judges throughout the country and subjects them to discipline if they violate its ethical canons.

Board members of NLGLA include Abby Rubinfeld, Nashville attorney and co-chair elect of the group, and Julia Tate, a lawyer from Memphis. •

"Basic Training" set for young activists

SAN FRANCISCO — A new education and training program for young lesbian and gay activists has been launched by the California-based Critical Literacy Institute in the first national effort to locate and encourage the next generation of lesbian and gay leaders.

The New Pacific Academy for Lesbian and Gay Community Service and Activism will open in June, 1990, with a one-month intensive training program at the University of California, Berkeley. The goal of the program, dubbed "Basic Training," is to provide young lesbians and gay men with the knowledge, practical skills and peer support necessary for effective leadership in the 1990s.

Initial funding of the program has been provided by an anonymous donor and New Pacific expects to cover all costs for participants except travel expenses. Room, board and course materials will be provided without charge. The 1990 "Basic Training" course will be limited to 200 people, 18 to 30 years old, who have demonstrated commitment to social service and political activism.

New Pacific was founded by Cleve Jones, veteran activist and founder of the NAMES Project, and youth organizer Luke Adams.

Deadline for applications is April 16. For details, write to New Pacific Academy, 2338 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94114, or phone (415) 252-1690. •

Lesbian/gay group denied AIDS funding

AUSTIN, Texas — The Texas Department of Health (TDH) has denied funds for an educational campaign designed to help meet the need for AIDS prevention in the Latino community, because the organization that would have conducted that campaign is openly gay.

The grant, requested from the state under the HIV Services Act, would have allowed Infomre SIDA, together with Planned Parenthood of Austin, to distribute literature on a wide range of women's reproductive health questions, including HIV infection, in selected low-income neighborhoods. Infomre SIDA is a project of the Austin Latino Lesbian/Gay Organization. •

CROSS COUNTRY

compiled from **STAFF REPORTS**

TV stations won't air gay ad

PHILADELPHIA — Against the backdrop of the Walt Whitman Bridge, a young gay man says, "Hey, I just found out that Walt Whitman was gay...you know, the guy they named the bridge after. I wish I had known that when I was in high school. Back then, I got hassled all the time by the other kids, 'cause I'm gay — and the teachers, they just stood around and didn't say anything."

The preceding statement is part of a 30-second public service announcement which was produced by the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force (PLGTF). However, in what PLGTF executive director Rita Addressa and co-chair Larry Gross have labelled broadcast censorship, every local station pulled the spot from their programming line-ups.

Stations said the announcement "makes a statement" and "seems like encouragement of a lifestyle." The stations also claimed Whitman's estate could file suit, Boston's GAY COMMUNITY NEWS reported. •

Teens sentenced in gay-bashing case

HARTFORD, Conn. — Two teenagers who admitted beating a West Hartford man because he was gay were each given one-year prison terms.

Superior Court Judge Raymond R. Norko earlier this month sentenced Lawrence Brush, 19, and James M. O'Brien, 17. Both had pleaded guilty to second-degree robbery. Two other teenagers involved in the beating, Sean G. Burke and Marcos J. Perez, were sentenced last month for the beating death of another gay man, Richard F. Reihl. Both were sentenced to more than 35 years in prison.

All four teenagers were arrested in June 1988 during a wave of anti-gay bashings in Hartford. •

Activists protest Air Force discharges

FORT WORTH, Texas — As local and national gay rights groups condemned an investigation of homosexual activity at Carswell Air Force Base, military officials said seven men were discharged in December because of their sexual orientation.

Capt. Barbara Carr, public affairs officer at Carswell, said six men received honorable discharges and one man received a general discharge last month because of "homosexual activity."

"Basically, what we're running into is, the military does not like homosexuals and they're booting these people out," said the founder of the Texas Gay Veterans. He asked that his real name not be used.

Gay rights leaders say they consider the investigation a "witch hunt."

"We see this whole incident at Carswell as one symptom of a larger societal issue," said Thomas Brunner, vice president of the Tarrant County Gay Alliance.

"It helps remind us that bigotry and discrimination are alive and well," he added.

Current defense department policy denies

lesbians and gay men from serving in the nation's armed forces.

That policy is currently under scrutiny by the defense department. •

Bush taps disease control chief

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President George Bush has appointed William Roper, former head of the Health Care Financing Administration, to head up the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, according to published reports.

Roper's appointment, however, has garnered mixed reviews from Washington AIDS lobbyists, who term Roper an "AIDS unknown."

"We haven't been able to identify any kind of significant record of achievement on the dramatic AIDS issues facing the CDC," said Robert Bray, public information director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). •

Boarding house's future threatened

JACKSON, Miss. — Sandifer House, a boarding house for people with HIV-infection, is under close scrutiny and may have to close because of a proposed state bill which would classify it as a hospice, the Associated Press reported.

Dr. Alton Cobb, state health officer, has instructed the licensure and certification division of the Mississippi Health Department to more closely monitor Sandifer House. It has been operating as a boarding house for several years in the Belhaven Heights neighborhood of Jackson.

Mississippi state Sen. Wootsie Tate has proposed a bill which would classify the boarding house as a hospice house which, under state law, is considered a commercial enterprise.

That would violate zoning standards in the state's capital city. •

Florida legislators mull mandatory HIV reports

TALLAHASSEE — Rep. David Flagg, D-Gainesville, said he didn't think a proposal to require mandatory reporting of people who test positive for the HIV virus will pass the Florida legislature this year, Miami's THE WEEKLY NEWS reported.

AIDS currently is an exception to the rule that requires doctors to report the names of carriers of sexually transmitted diseases to the state.

"We will continue in our efforts to balance civil rights...and the public health and safety," Flagg said. "At this time, the chairman [sic] does not see a reason to change the path we're on."

Last year, lawmakers worked out a compromise to require private physicians to encourage patients who tested positive for the AIDS virus either to contact sexual partners themselves or allow their names to be reported to the state, which would then help in tracking partners. •

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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 our fresh-brewed herb tea or Coffee Bean International coffee.

And now, we carry six new gay and lesbian publications, including *Our World*, an international gay travel magazine, *Out/Look*, and *Tribe*, a wonderful gay literary journal.

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Monica Munro, Miss Gay Tennessee USA 1989
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VAP advisory board meets

from STAFF REPORTS

Vanderbilt AIDS Project (VAP) recently held its first advisory board meeting of the year bringing together many newly named advisory board members. The board members, led by VAP director Gene Copello, discussed future plans and goals for the agency.

VAP was formed in August, 1985, to provide education and training in the area of AIDS prevention to various health care professionals, churches, schools and businesses; counseling and supportive services for people with HIV infection and those close to them; information and referral about AIDS and HIV infection; and program and policy consultation about AIDS to industries, small businesses, colleges, health care facilities and other organizations.

Among the goals discussed at last week's meeting were plans to continue to maintain services at the current level; diversity funding sources; broaden the focus of VAP to include

services for the homeless and youth populations, especially gay and lesbian youth; institute new client services programs for women who are HIV-positive and for those people who are not HIV-positive but see themselves at risk for becoming so; increase staffing of the program; and to present at least two major lectures for the public about AIDS and HIV infection.

The executive committee of VAP is comprised of Vicki Brinsko, infection control nurse at Vanderbilt University Medical Center; Gary Brock, director of pastoral services at Vanderbilt University Medical Center; Beverly Brown, co-chair of Minority AIDS Outreach; Abby Rubinfeld, Nashville attorney; William Schaffner, chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; Lois Wagner, coordinator of the AIDS Vaccine Program of the Vanderbilt University Medical Center; and Copello. •

...Knoxville chancellor rules

• continued from page 1

The doors to the booths were removed and operating hours for the establishments set from 8 a.m. to 3 a.m., following a 1987 investigation by the Metro Nashville Health Department. Joseph Bistowich, then-director of the department, told members of the Metro Council at that time that adult bookstores are breeding grounds for sexually-transmitted diseases.

After Higgins' ruling, the doors on the individual viewing booths were replaced and hours changed at the city's adult bookstores.

In 1988, a judge in Hamilton County ordered all adult bookstores in Chattanooga closed, again citing public health reasons. In early 1989, some of the stores re-opened, selling books and magazines only. Private viewing booths are still outlawed by local ordinance in Chattanooga.

Efforts by both the Nashville Coalition Against Pornography (NCAP) and the anti-gay Tennessee Coalition for Traditional Values (TCTV) to close adult bookstores and to rid the shelves of all area video stores of so-

called pornographic materials continue. An NCAP rally, held Thursday at the Grand Ole Opry House, featured local anti-pornography leaders and Jerry Kirk, head of the Cincinnati, Ohio-based National Coalition Against Pornography.

Tennessee statutes define obscene materials as "patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts," such as sexual intercourse, fellatio, cunnilingus or sodomy. The statutes outlaw the ownership, distribution and display of such materials.

With the exception of child pornography, which carries stiff punishments for persons found to be in possession of such material, penalties for other forms of pornography are slight in Tennessee. Importing, distribution, exhibition or possession of pornographic obscene materials — misdemeanor offenses — carry a penalty of 90 days to six months imprisonment and up to \$1,000 in fines.

Other state laws also require that videos bearing an "X" rating be placed in a separate room in video rental stores and that the room be inaccessible to persons under 18. •

...T-GALA plans

• continued from page 1

The membership committee, in addition to soliciting new members, will also develop educational programs and other activities for the organization's general members.

T-GALA also plans to establish a presence on Tennessee's Capitol Hill by monitoring legislative activity and, ultimately, by hiring a lobbyist.

"Since 1990 is an election year, we hope to play an active role," Rubinfeld said.

"The board's members seem really excited because we've taken some steps we've never taken before. Also, since we've entered a new decade, some members are excited by that," Campbell said. "I think now that we have centralized leadership we'll be able to accomplish a great deal." •

...Texas two-stepping

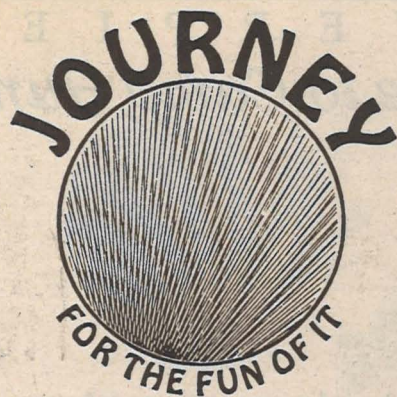
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tremendously uncompetitive and supportive of one another. Their skill and experience at acting varies, as does their singing ability, but the parts are distributed equally among the cast.

A few characters are a bit less central than others, but each one receives individual attention. Leigh McClelland (Laura) has a particularly good voice and her songs and guitar provide a connecting thread that runs through the production. Melody Riefer (An-

ita) knows how to deliver an ironic line and to wait for the laugh. Jill Ruhlman (Shelley) is merely captivating. But their greater practice and talent strengthen the production rather than calling attention to small deficiencies that might exist in other performances.

What, no negative comments? Well, yes. I wish they had danced more — those sharply timed two-step numbers were amazing. And they didn't reward attentive audience members with gifts of those great hand-painted black vests worn in the final scenes. •



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Marlene Dietrich: If this isn't camp, nothing is. — DARE FILE PHOTO

C E N T E R P I E C E

Welcome to Camp Humor

"Working in an atmosphere of pure guttural heterosexuality, they really don't understand our humor. It is a new job so I am having to break them in slowly. But if I knew why this type of humor is so 'odd' and how it works — maybe I could do it better. Everybody wants a laugh!"

— from a loyal Dare reader in Memphis

What is camp, where does it come from and why does it keep following us around?

The elusive answer to that question — or rather, questions — has been sought for years and years by everyone from Christopher Isherwood to Susan Sontag to Edmund White. And we still aren't sure.

by
JEFF ELLIS
Editor

WE DO KNOW THAT THE term "camp" was first used by Jean Cocteau in a set of his aphorisms published by VANITY FAIR in 1922.

Trying to define camp is like the woman who asked Louis Armstrong what jazz is: "Lady, if you've got to ask, you'll never know," Satchmo reportedly replied.

Camp, like jazz, is an intangible, an enigma to many people. But to know camp is to love it and to love it is to know it. (Thus, Gertrude Stein's "A rose is a rose is a rose" is one of the earliest known examples of camp in literature.)

According to essayist Sontag in her famous treatise on the subject, "Notes on 'Camp,'" "Camp sees everything in quotation marks."

Alan Brien, author of CAMPER'S GUIDE, writes: "Camp is the habit of speaking almost entirely in italics,

of tating up ideas with costume jewelry."

Michael Monroe says: "Camp is when you apply an inappropriate degree of sophistication to a subject."

Leonard R. N. Ashley offers: "Camp is clear as well as rude, tacking and bitchy, cute and cynical, merry and merciless, at its best when it has enough salt in it to preserve it."

Whatever it is, camp is. Camp is a style of humor founded upon exaggeration, stressing form over content. It mocks pretension and subverts fundamentally-held values. Tongue planted firmly in cheek, it tends to play upon stereotypes.

It's aggressive and pointed, sometimes biting and cruel, but always wickedly decadent. Camp is self-deprecating and self-mocking, yet can be used as a defense or an offense.

"BY DECLARING THAT BAD art is good, tackiness tasteful, the camp vogue announces its dictatorial power — the power to switch all minuses to pluses and vice-versa. Not all, for the hierarchy of camp excellence is arbitrary and unsys-

tematic," said writer Edmund White, in an attempt to explain the aggressiveness of camp humor.

"Because camp is so arbitrary, it frightens the uninitiated or at least makes them uneasy. I would claim that the function of camp is to promote such uneasiness; it is a muted, irresponsible form of antagonism, one too silly to be held accountable, a safe way of subverting the system."

Writer George Melly says that camp is "bitchy rather than aggressive. It conspires rather than excludes."

CAMP IS NOT THE EXCLUSIVE domain of lesbians and gay men, although it is predominantly so. But today, given the assimilation of "our" thoughts and actions in the pervasive heterosexual society, camp can be found everywhere.

But they're not as good at it as we

Camp

Bette Midler
Dolly Parton
Twitty City
The Pink Palace
Bill Boner
k.d. lang
42ND STREET
drag queens
F. Scott Fitzgerald
Gertrude Stein
Marilyn Quayle's hair
Oscar Wilde
Grace Jones
Patti Labelle
Robin Givens
A CURRENT AFFAIR
DALLAS
Andy Warhol
Joan Rivers
Tipper Gore
pastels
silver
feathers
Alison Bechdel
CHATTANOOGA NEWS-FREE PRESS
THE WEEKLY WORLD NEWS
Betty Banner
DESIGNING WOMEN
sequins and bugle beads
Leona Helmsley

No way

Amy Grant
Barbara Mandrell
The Hermitage
Brooks Art Gallery
Victor Ashe
K.T. Oslin
A CHORUS LINE: THE MOVIE
female illusionists
Ernest Hemingway
Betty Friedan
Dan Quayle's hair
Norman Mailer
Debbie Gibson
Whitney Houston
Mike Tyson
FACE THE NATION
L.A. LAW
Frederick Remington
Joan Mondale
Al Gore
earth tones
brass
fur
Charles Schulz
THE NEW YORK TIMES
TENNESSEE ILLUSTRATED
Catherine Darnell
THE HOGAN FAMILY
Bob Mackie
Donald Trump



Lou Reed, of Andy Warhol's favorite band Velvet Underground: definitely camp. — DARE FILE PHOTO



Tony Curtis (left) and Jack Lemmon, camping it up here in the 1950s Marilyn Monroe film *SOME LIKE IT HOT*. They know the rules. — DARE FILE PHOTO

are.

Philip Core, in his book *CAMP: THE LIE THAT TELLS THE TRUTH*, writes: "Camp is most obvious to me in a homosexual context, but I perceive it in heterosexuals as well, and in the sexless professionalism of many careers."

"There are only two things essential to camp: a secret within the personality which one ironically wishes to conceal and to exploit, and a peculiar way of seeing things, affected by spiritual isolation, but strong enough to impose itself on others through acts or creations."

"Camp depends on where as well as how you pitch it. In some senses it is in the eye of the beholder. While their motives may be clear to the camp, their resultant actions remain marked but mysterious to the observer."

What is most certain about camp is that it's always around — simmering underneath the surface of a television comedy show, in the gossip columns of the newspapers and in the words of actions of the people in a bar.

Maybe that's what's reassuring about camp. Or maybe it's just wicked fun. •

Camp Rules

- Camp depends on where you pitch it.
- Camp is character limited to context.
- Camp is in the eyes of the beholder, especially if the beholder is camp.
- Camp is a form of historicism viewed histrionically.
- Camp is not necessarily homosexual. Anyone or anything can be camp. But it takes one to know one.
- Camp was a prison for an illegal minority; now it is a holiday for consenting adults.
- Camp is first of all a second childhood.
- Camp is essential to military discipline.
- Camp is a disguise that fails.
- Camp is free association; free-thinking is not camp.
- Camp is cross-dressing in a Freudian slip.
- Camp is an art without artists.
- Camp is anti-art in the same way physical desire is anti-creative.
- Camp is a lie which tells the truth.
- Camp is embarrassment without cowardice.
- Camp is gender without genitals.

— excerpted from *CAMP: THE LIE THAT TELLS THE TRUTH* by Phillip Core ©1984 Delilah Books

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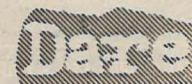
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Box 8402, Chattanooga, TN
37411
call (615) 266-2422

aids Response Knoxville (aRK)
Box 3932, Knoxville, TN 37927
call (615) 523-AIDS

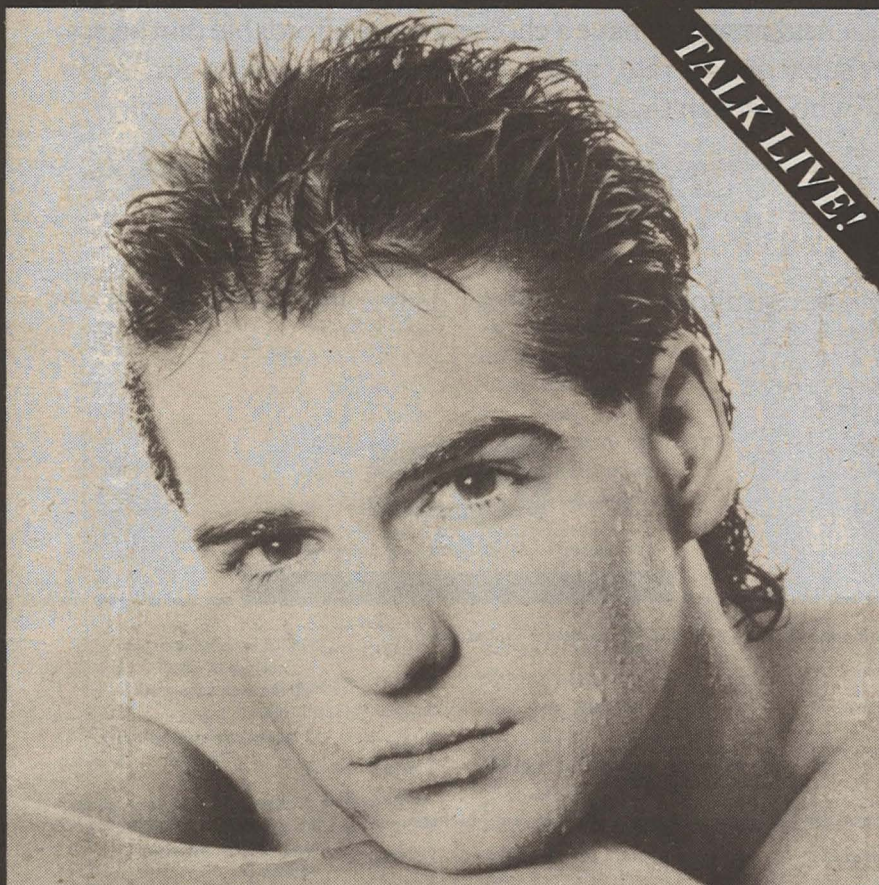
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(ATEAC)
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38174
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Resources,
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37202
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(615) 385-1510

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M A R K E T

Announcements

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• **WOMEN:** How can Music City not have a Women's Chorus? If you'd like to form one, write Dare DRAWER 49.

• Wanted: Kind Knoxville person with large yard to adopt 35 furry lbs of canine affection and protection. Mixed breed mongrel, 9 mos old, ugly-but-cute, free to excellent home only. Call Amy (615) 945-1402.

• Attention lesbians and gay womyn: A nite to unite. Finding it difficult to meet others? Interested in forming a social group for support, discussion & social activities? Nashville. Write Dare DRAWER 48. Will reply!

• It's a Scream! We now have books for men and women and lots of stuff you won't find anywhere else, like black long-sleeve t-shirts with pink triangle. It's A Scream! 168 2nd Avenue North, Nashville. (615) 244-7346.

• **SPELL OUT YOUR LOVE:** We're proud to announce the extension of our **FREE PERSONALS**. Send a Valentine message. Meet new friends. Start a reading group. Or just say your piece to lesbian and gay Tennesseans, and we'll pick up the tab. Send us your personal ad (up to 200 characters) with the words "free personals" written across the top of the form below, and your ad is free. Don't just sit there — grab a pen and get personal! Ads must be postmarked on or before February 28,

1990. Don't forget to add \$5 for response drawers. We reserve the right to edit or to refuse any ad. Offer not good for announcements, sales, real estate or commercial classified ads.

• Harvey's Cleaning Service. Dependable, affordable. Get a clean start for the '90s. Call (615) 228-3060. Nashville.

• **GAY PENTECOSTAL GROUP** forming. Nashville. For info write to Dare DRAWER 43.

• **DYKE T-SHIRTS** Show your true colors. Send check or money order for \$15.95 to Dykes Are Us, 151 Tandy Ln, Oak Grove, KY 42262.

• Help! Let me breathe again. I'm allergic to my beautiful, orange, long-hair, male, 6-month-old cat. He's very sweet and lovable. Please give him a home. Call Laura at (615) 831-2941 and leave message. Nashville.

• Nashville CARES is seeking a full-time AIDS Educator. Person selected for position needs strong background and education, good writing and speaking skills, and the ability to communicate with a variety of groups. Phone Peggy at Nashville CARES (615) 385-1510 for complete job description. Send résumé and salary requirements to Sandee Potter, Nashville CARES, Box 25107, Nashville, TN 37202. EOE.

• **WANTED:** If you're reliable and conscientious, we're looking for you for commissioned ad sales in Knoxville and Memphis. We're also looking for distribution points and someone to deliver Dare in Jackson, our newest de-

livery 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.

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• Female MTSU student, relocating back to Nashville seeks female roommate. Nonsmoker preferred. (615) 896-8664. Murfreesboro. Please leave msg.

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• **1 BLOCK OFF CHURCH ST.** Versatile commercial bldg. Nashville Central Business District. \$80,000. Kathy Douglas, TEAM Realty & Auction, Nashville. (615) 228-2189 or 333-3330.

Personal

• GWM not into gay scene. 5'10", 160lbs. Br/Bl, 28. Outdoors, one on one, adventurous, friend and more. Discreet. Dare DRAWER 51

• GWM, 30s prof. seeks handsome hairy prof. for good quiet times. College jocks can respond, too. 21-40. Photo, phone, please. Dare DRAWER 52

• Sleazella: 1-1/2 years to remember your name; 6 mos. til stage four; 3 years til little critters; 25 years til Paris. For this moment it's forever — you're mine, Valentine. — Slutella.

• Stacy — you're the love of my life. Happy Valentine's Day! — Jacki

• GWF, 23, attractive girl seeks feminine, petite young lady. Interests include music & romance. Dare DRAWER 50.

• Denise: I love you for believing in me. Thank you for 4 of the most influential years of my life!! — Trina, Y.H. W.

• GWM, 44, 5'10" Bl/HZ, prof. Enjoys quiet evenings at home, movies and finer things in life. Sks someone 30-45 who enjoys same. Dare DRAWER 48.

• Dearest Sherlock — It's our 4th anniversary! Still as fresh & exciting as in the beginning. — Love forever, Howdy Doody.

• To my "Cool Beans," Happy Birthday, with all my love. — "Jewel"

• But to be honest, the Wilson sisters had never been among my favorites. Their lyrics were trite, and their voices a poor imitation of well-known groups like the Andrews Sisters.

• Happy, hairy, handsome, hunky, horny GWM, 6'1", 180lbs. Not sure what I'm looking for. Partial to teddy

bears. Photo & phone. Discretion assured. Dare DRAWER 45

• Lee, our birthdays are near. May your 25th year mark the beginning of a new era for you, and may the world's gifts be yours to find. And, God willing, I can discover them with you. I love you. Michael.

• To our nephews in Sunny South Florida: Keep making everyone and everything look more beautiful! We hope to see you soon. Lord Gargantua & Mr. Fatty.

• GWF, 34, 6'0" prof. Sports minded. I like scary movies, Far Side, Stephen King & travel. You: GWF w/ sense of humor, animal lover, likes 2 sleep late wknds & has it all together. Sights set on lasting friendship w/ possibility of 50/50 relationship. Dare DRAWER 46

• Bev: It won't be long before our friend says goodbye. Film at 11. — Guess who?

• Oh God. Would she leave during giraffe hours or stick it out at the bar, drinking absinthe. Mother! I stormed out quietly, raging at beauty and kindness of heart.

• GWM, 31, 5'11" Br/HZ 175 enjoys walks, local/LD travel, advntur, occas. bars, outdtrs, crossword puzzles, security, frndshp, gd commun., no drugs, modert drink, smokr. Sks smlr 25-40. Foto/fone? Dare DRAWER 44.

• GWM, 53, Bl/HZ, 5'10". Professional. Enjoys antiques, movies, cozy fires, theatre, walks, looking for one who enjoys same. Dare DRAWER 42.

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S C R E E N S

Banalities on barbiturates

DRUGSTORE COWBOY. Directed by Gus Van Sant. Written by Gus Van Sant and Dan Yost.

Starring Matt Dillon and Kelly Lynch. 1989.

reviewed by **FLYNN MALONE**

Staff Writer

I'VE GOT TO CARE about the people on the screen. It isn't important that they be wholesome or beautiful or even admirable, but I need to care whether they live or die.

Openly gay director Gus Van Sant has chosen the story of four drug addicts in Portland, Oregon, in 1971, and I couldn't care less about any of them after spending almost two hours with them in DRUGSTORE COWBOY.

Drug addicts of the highest caliber, these are, eating and shooting anything they can steal or trade. We're introduced to them through some goofy home movie footage that is haphazardly shot to convey either their altered states of mind or their carefree attitude toward life.

They steal, get high, quarrel, overdose, go straight, don't go straight, get shot, and that's about it. Van Sant is not a filmmaker without talent, and I wonder why he chose such a property. Movies are so damned hard to make: expensive, tedious, difficult. Why choose such a script that looks that the lives of people who make no substantive change, reveal no vision, and, worst of all, give no entertainment?

Stylistically, the movie depends on the portrayal of the drugged state of mind. This internal perception has always been difficult to portray cinematically. Van Sant opts for small silhouetted icons that fly and float — sort of like milagros of the mind against a sound track of chimes. Once was interesting, but later when I heard bells ringing I knew we'd be flying small craft again.

The movie also depends upon the acting of people whose characters are numbing themselves into oblivion. It's boring to watch banalities on barbiturates. Yet, inexplicably 26-year-old "Bad Bobby Hughes," played by Matt Dillon (MY BODYGUARD, FLAMINGO KID) can always outwit everyone though he's taking industrial strength narcotics.

The script has such trite lines as, "Poor Nadine. She was just a goddamn kid." This was uttered by Kelly Lynch as Bobby's wife Diane after "poor Nadine" was discovered

stiff, blue and glossy from an overdose of dilaudid.

The lifeless plot has other problems. How do these people have money for motel rooms, gasoline, cars, cigarettes? We never see them working, stealing money or selling drugs.

Further, in the space of 24 hours, Bobby Hughes has an unbelievable conversion. He changes from a useless punk who pronounces that because Nadine took her man's portion of the take that she deserved to die, into an upstanding working man successfully enrolled in a methadone program. Bam! Just like that.

Also unbelievable is when he is clean, and presumably strong, Bobby doesn't fight back when attacked by two punks. In fact, dealing with Nadine's corpse, which is what causes Bobby to go

straight, comes closest to entertainment. The sight gags of hauling a stiff into an attic and down again provide an awkward dose of the mildest comedy that is inappropriate to the dull desperation in these people's lives.

The most interesting character is desiccated, out-of-work, dedicated drug taker Father Murphy, played by William S. Burroughs.

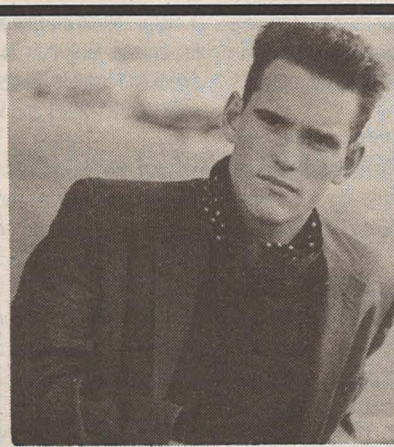
Here is a person of intrigue and depth. His screen time is less than five minutes.

The art direction is good; the clothes are ugly. Remember those flared bell bottoms and polyester prints of the wildest patterns mildly held at bay under vests and garnished by boots?

The music by Elliott Goldenthal is the best aspect of the film. It always surprises and the track for pharmacy robberies is a tantalizing exaggeration of breath and percussion. Abbey Lincoln's wonderful blues rendition of "Tomorrow May Never Come For All We Know," is, I suppose, to be a sort of anthem.

I'M ALL FOR characters that run counter to the culture. But give us some heroes, please. Even scuzzy Ratso Rizzo of MIDNIGHT COWBOY died trying to obtain his dream. He is still remembered 20 years later.

DRUGSTORE COWBOY and its deadbeats will sink into oblivion — where they belong. •



*The movie
depends upon the
acting of people
whose characters
are numbing
themselves into
oblivion. It's simply
boring to watch
banalities on
barbiturates. Yet
"Bad Bobby Hughes"
can always outwit
everyone...*

ONSTAGE

Still compelling at 56

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR. By Lillian Hellman. Directed by Genia Shipman.
Lakewood Community Theatre, Lakewood. Through February 10.

reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**
Editor

TERESA NELSON'S stellar performance as the doomed heroine Martha Dobie is reason enough to see Lakewood Community Theatre's production of Lillian Hellman's *THE CHILDREN'S HOUR*.

But given the show's overall production, there is even more reason to see the three-act drama. It is an involving, thoroughly entertaining piece of theatrical history, still compelling and controversial almost 60 years after its Broadway premiere.

Although Hellman deals with her subject—a rumored lesbian relationship between the two directors of an elite girls' school in New England—in terms considered oblique and stilted by contemporary standards, she has nonetheless crafted a drama that even today fairly resonates with deep-seated meaning and is underscored by a torrent of innuendo. Although her consideration of the two women's relationship is relatively tame, Hellman has created characters and situations that are relevant for today's audiences.

Of course it helps to have a capable cast translating her words for Hellman's classic tragedy to intrigue the contemporary theatre-goer. Director Genia Shipman has assembled a fine group of actors.

Clearly, it is Nelson's show. With her classic good looks and gorgeous shock of wavy blonde hair, Nelson definitely evokes visions of the '30s. Her performance is a richly drawn, finely detailed portrait of a woman troubled by her own inadequacies and a lack of honesty—either to herself or to those most important to her. Nelson virtually attacks her character, breathing life into the script-bound woman, brandishing her remarkable talent with a dramatic fervor that is truly riveting.

As Karen Wright, Tracy Morell takes on her

first major stage role with a cool distance, effectively portraying the character while somehow remaining aloof. Unfortunately, the result seems to be an underplaying of the role, lacking the dynamics needed to make the two women's relationship—whether real or imagined—seem natural.

In the role of Dr. Cardin, Karen's fiancé, actor Keith Beagan gives a good performance that simmers with emotion, although he obviously could be better with more sensitive direction. Beagan clearly has the actor's intuitive movement, yet lacks the fluidity that comes with a deft directorial hand.

In other supporting roles, Helen Aikins is quite striking as matriarch Amelia Tilford, expertly playing the role with matronly *hauteur*, despite some strident gesturing. As Martha's Aunt Lily, Jesse Raye seems miscast; she's much too young and her delivery seems far too deliberate to be believable.

Molly McCann, cast in the pivotal role of Mary (the child whose vicious lies bring about the women's downfall), shows flashes of inspired treachery, but seems unable to sustain her performance. Leslie Holmes (as Mary's put-upon classmate Rosalie) displays promise, but obviously needs more direction.

SHIPMAN'S DIRECTION is clearly the root of any problems the cast may have had in developing their characters. Her direction seems far too heavy-handed in spots, unfocused in others.

Despite some technical flaws and needless distractions (people talking in the lobby during the performance, others jangling keys during the play's *dénouement*), the show is well-done and well-cast. What it lacks in polish, it makes up for in compelling drama and superb individual performances. •

Stompin' and swingin'

TEXAS TWO-STEPPING WITH THE GIRLS. By Rebecca Ransom. Directed by Rebecca Ransom.
Musical Direction by Cheryl Pittman. Southeastern Arts Media and Entertainment (SAME).
Unitarian Universalist Church, Nashville. January 27. Benefit for Gay Cable Network/Nashville.

reviewed by **SHERRE DRYDEN**
Book Editor

Now, was Anita Ginny's lover, or was that Emily? Which one was Barbara?

Who played the guitar? Rachel? No, no it was the sculptor.

What was her name? Laura?

TEXAS TWO-STEPPING WITH THE GIRLS is a series of vignettes, moments and stories from the lives of ten lesbians brought together by an interest in learning the two-step. The sometimes funny, sometimes sad story of their lives and loves is interspersed with song and dance.

As they practice for a two-step contest, their history and their present is gradually revealed to the audience. The identities of the actors merge with the characters they present.

The situations are so believable (except for the fact that my friends, anyway, don't burst into song and dance at the drop of a heart) that the actors must tire of having to explain that

they are Deb, Denise, Lenny, Leigh, Cheryl, Melody, Jill, Linda, Devonie and Jennifer, not Meredith, Matkia, Emily, Laura, Ginny, Anita, Shelley, Dale, Barbara and Rachel.

Even the fact that their acting isn't perfect lends support to the impression that this is truth, some kind of you-are-there oral history, rather than a play.

Best of all, the women look real. They're a pretty diverse bunch—long hair and short, butch-ish and femme-ish, some of them round, some of them narrow.

Un-glamorous, not necessarily matching up to the current (mainstream or lesbian) standards for physical attractiveness, these women catch the eye and the imagination. They are each one beautiful, and I do not mean in the spiritual sense.

They are also, or at least seem to be,

• continued on page 6

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We're watching you!

Editor's note: This letter was sent to Nashville's WLAC Radio talk show host Les Jameson about his interview with Urvashi Vaid, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director.

Dear Mr. Jameson:

We are writing in regards to your interview with Urvashi Vaid, the Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, which aired on Friday, January 12. The staff and volunteers of the organizations and businesses we represent, as well as other members of Nashville's lesbian and gay community, are concerned and angry about the tone, attitude, and sexually harassing line of questioning that characterized your interview with Ms. Vaid.

Specifically, we feel that phrases such as "If I could wave a magic wand and make you normal..." questions such as "Have you ever had sexual intercourse with a man?" and comments suggesting that you and Ms. Vaid would probably end up having sex were you to meet, are inappropriate and reveal a total lack of knowledge or understanding of the gay and lesbian community.

Ms. Vaid is the executive officer of a national organization addressing itself to the rights and civil liberties of gay men and lesbians and their families throughout the United States. To be sure, Ms. Vaid needs no defense, but to be questioned in a manner that belies ignorance and offends the lesbian/gay community is embarrassing at best, and at worst serves only to perpetuate the stereotype that people in southern metropolitan cities are fundamentally backward in their political, social, theological, psychological and ethical conscience. This is not the type of programming nor professionalism the people of Nashville expect.

We urge you, Mr. Jameson, to research your topic, to muster respect for those you interview, and to realize that there are at least 50,000 lesbians and gay men in the Nashville/Davidson County area. We are everywhere, and we will not allow such blatant displays of homophobia from our media, our politicians, or any other person in this community to go unchecked. As a means of informing you and your radio audience, we suggest a follow-up show featuring positive gay and lesbian themes pertinent to the local Nashville community.

Sincerely,

PENNY CAMPBELL, Director
GALLIP Community Services

STUART BIVIN, Publisher
Dare, Tennessee's Lesbian
and Gay Newsweekly

SAM ADAMS, Board of Directors
Southeastern Conference
for Lesbians and Gay Men

DIANE EASTER, Executive Director
Gay Cable Network/Nashville

ABBY R. RUBENFELD, Board of Directors
Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance

HARRISON HICKS, Board of Directors
Metropolitan Community Church
Nashville

Dare

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

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

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GAY BRIEFS

Whose side are they on, anyway?

by JIM ROCHE
Contributing Writer

WOODY MYERS' appointment as the new health commissioner for New York City will have grave national and international ramifications, ones that may be coming to your home town soon.

By now it has become apparent to everyone in New York that Myers is an arch-homophobe, or at least acts like one. The evidence against him is overwhelming: he supported the passes of Senate Bill 9 in Indiana requiring the reporting of names of all HIV-positive people.

He supports HIV-testing without informed consent. He supports incarceration of people who the state feels might practice unsafe sex — including unprotected oral sex.

He is reported to have pushed for the closing of gay baths, gay bars and even gay bookstores in order to keep gay people from meeting, because, you know, whenever we get together we...

He has seen to the harassment of these gay establishments while leaving similar heterosexual establishments alone. This is pure and simple homophobia.

Finally, almost every respectable AIDS organization and civil rights organization in the state has complained about his misuse, or at least the lack of use of CDC-allocated funds for AIDS programs.

In Indiana if you are HIV-positive you can be required by his health department to seek counseling (they seem to assume if you're gay and have sex you're sick), however, when you attempt to get this counseling you find it isn't available and the federal funds that were given to Indiana for such purposes have been confiscated by Myers' health department. Much of this money is unspent.

Three points have often been made in Myers' defense by members of the community. First, he quit the Reagan AIDS commission in protest. Well, so what? Who wouldn't?

Second, supporters say: he's a member of the AmFAR (American Foundation for AIDS Research) Board. Look at Cardinal O'Connor. He's on all sorts of boards, but do you think he is qualified to make decisions concerning your health or civil rights? This, rather than being a plus for Myers, is an indictment of

AmFAR.

Finally, supporters say he was instrumental in arranging schooling for Ryan White, a teenage hemophiliac with AIDS. Of course, there's Myers helping someone who is perceived to be an "innocent heterosexual victim."

That he would stick his neck out for the innocent heterosexual boy and then take the steps he has to curb the civil liberties of lesbians and gay men shows the depths of his phobia. Why can't the gay community get the same kind of support?

All this may scare you, and it may not. Maybe you think, "This is happening in New York city, Myers knows what he can and can't get away with there and he'll toe the line." Well, yes and no.

The problem is that the rest of the nation, the state capitals and little towns out there we never read about, all look to New York for answers about what to do in this crisis.

Dinkins, to some degree, was set up by members of our own gay community who we all depend upon.

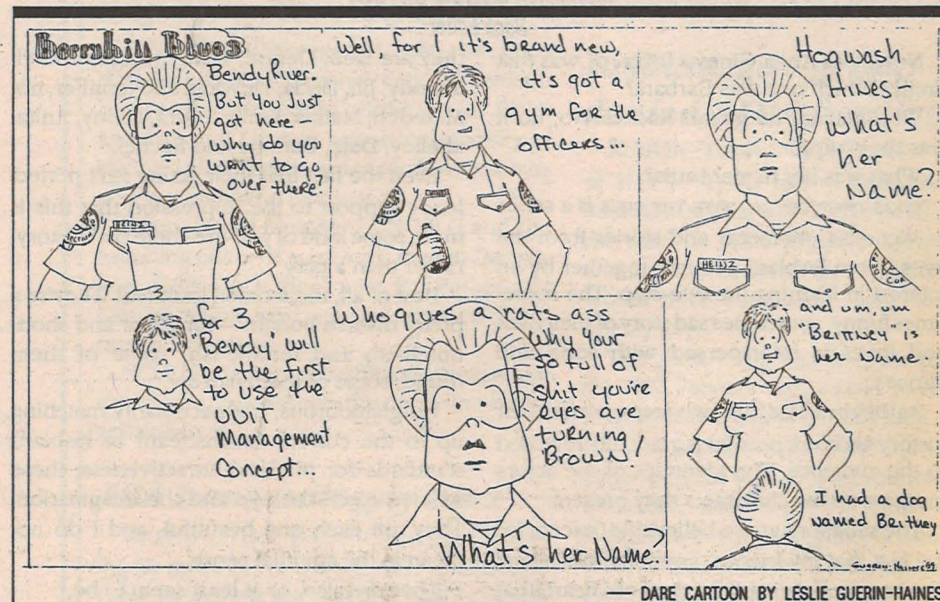
First, Tim Sweeney of Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), who was aware of these problems with Myers and did nothing.

In an interview with New York's OUTWEEK magazine, he said, "I know some people simply do not believe this [quarantine] is a proper approach. But because of my lobbying activity, I can understand the compromises that one has to make to some of these public health issues..."

Sweeney's middle name seems to be compromise. Many New Yorkers feel he should resign from GMHC.

SECOND, Mathilde Krim of AmFAR. She, too, it would seem, must have known more that she let on and then backed down from taking a firm stand on the appointment.

These actions, or lack of action by gay and AIDS representatives on the selection committee have caused disarray in New York, divided Dinkins' support, and sent a message across America that homophobia, bigotry, double standard are all acceptable when you're dealing with lesbians and gay men. Well, they aren't! •



PAGES

Double marginalization

HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE PRIESTHOOD AND THE RELIGIOUS LIFE. Edited by Jeannine Gramick.

New York: Crossroad, 1989. 251 pages. \$14.95 paper.

reviewed by **GEORGE GRAHAM**

Contributing Writer

THE SHEER NUMBER of contributors to *HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE PRIESTHOOD AND THE RELIGIOUS LIFE* makes it an important volume on a misunderstood subject. Fourteen personal accounts about life in the Roman Catholic priesthood and the religious orders by lesbians and gay men form the core of the book.

The personal accounts are introduced by several essays which review the history of the church and homosexuality, and are followed by several more essays recommending directives for ministry to lesbians and gay men in the church.

The personal accounts are divided equally between women and men. The contributors express eloquently the struggle of coming out in an environment which is stereotyped as asexual. They demonstrate that coming out is more a process than it is a one-time event.

Sister Raphaela records her coming out in terms of laps, while Sister Vickie recounts her "terrible twenties, terrific thirties and fantastic forties."

Beyond this concept of coming out as process, the accounts describe the self-doubt, pain and joy which are part of coming out, religious or not. The contributors are particularly gifted in relating the spiritual aspect of coming out, which led many to a greater sense of empathy for others who suffer.

The accounts also show that it is possible to face coming out with humor and pride. Writes Richard John Cardarelli, OFM Cap.: "I think of Jesus. 'Are you a king?' they asked him. 'Are you a queen?' they ask me..." Yes! I exclaim. I am a priest. I am gay. I am proud."

In these accounts, there is not only sensitivity to issues of coming out. There is also a sensitivity to the difference between lesbian and experiences of coming out. This sensitivity continues into the final section of the book, which distinguishes between ministry to women and ministry to men who are dealing with issues of sexuality in religious communities.

In reading the accounts, I was surprised that only those who chose to stay in the priesthood and the religious orders were represented. What about those who left, fed up with ecclesial hierarchy or questioning the value of celibacy? The book does not address these questions.

It does, however, address an important issue and does this admirably, excusing the

volume of some of its lopsidedness. This issue is what John Boswell terms the "double marginalization" which lesbians and gay men in religious vocations experience.

Boswell develops this concept in his historical review of homosexuality and religious orders. The first marginalization is by the church itself. Like the society at large, the church identifies homosexuality with sexual activity. The second marginalization is by the lesbian and gay community, which does not comprehend why priests and religious remain in the church after they come out.

The personal accounts make clear that lesbians and gays can be called to and do remain faithful to religious vocations which involve a vow of celibacy. These accounts dispel the misconception that homosexuality means inability to keep vows.

The ministerial perspectives challenge the traditional expectations of the church towards those who take vows, that they will live within the walls, avoiding "particular friendships," a term usually employed as a euphemism for lesbian and gay relationships.

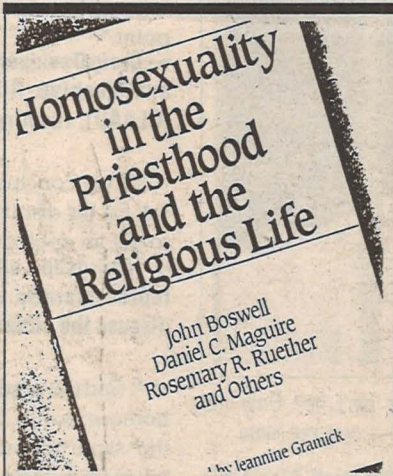
Boswell claims that the oppression of lesbians and gays within the church began in earnest only after 1250. Thus, throughout most of the history of the church, homosexuality has not been an issue. Indeed, at points homosexuality even received the church's blessing in the form of marriage services.

Despite the persecution of the last eight centuries, religious life has probably served as "the most consistent, widespread, institutionalized and constructive gay lifestyle," Boswell claims.

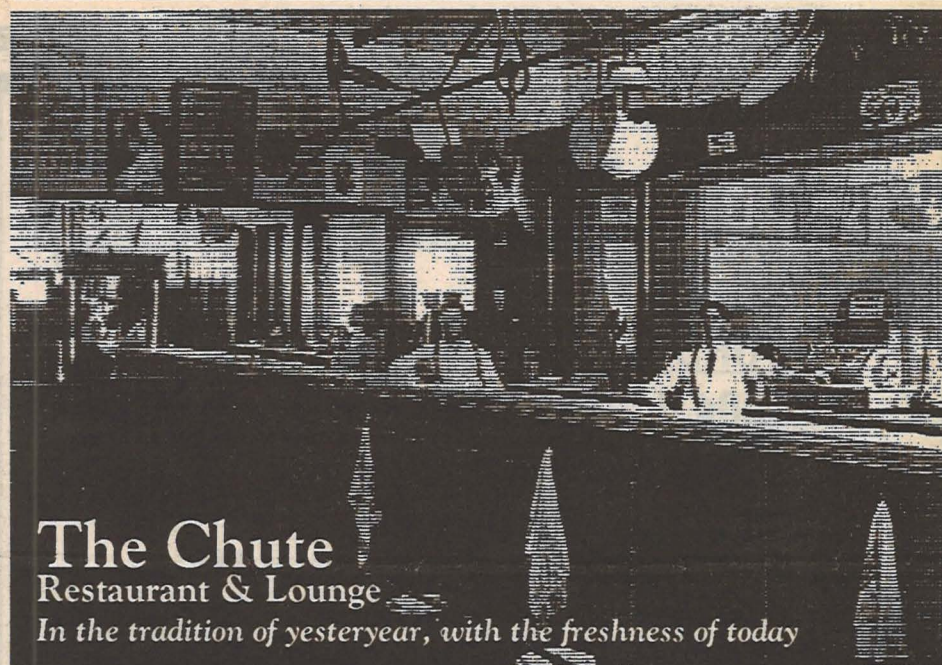
Thus, rather than feeling doubly marginalized, homosexual priests and religious should feel empowered by the centrality of their position both in the church and in lesbian/gay culture.

BECAUSE OF THIS centrality, it is important to read *HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE PRIESTHOOD AND THE RELIGIOUS LIFE*. While the number of essays and accounts might prohibit reading the book in a single sitting, the demystification of a truly mystifying topic makes taking the time worthwhile.

In the end, the book shows once again what one contributor, Father Aelred, discovered when he began to study church history. "We truly were, and still are, everywhere," an important lesson for both the church and the lesbian/gay community. •



Thus, rather than feeling doubly marginalized, homosexual priests and religious should feel empowered by the centrality of their position.

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with our DJ Ed Denson

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4
Tea Dance Revisited
Happy Hour 2-for-1 cocktails
7pm—10pm
Buffet
2 shows at 11pm and 12:30am
Special guest Coco Vega

REMEMBER WAREHOUSE
TWO'S NEW HOURS:
7pm—3 am every day except
Monday
Happy Hour 7—10pm
with 2-for-1 cocktails
No cover before 9pm on
weeknights

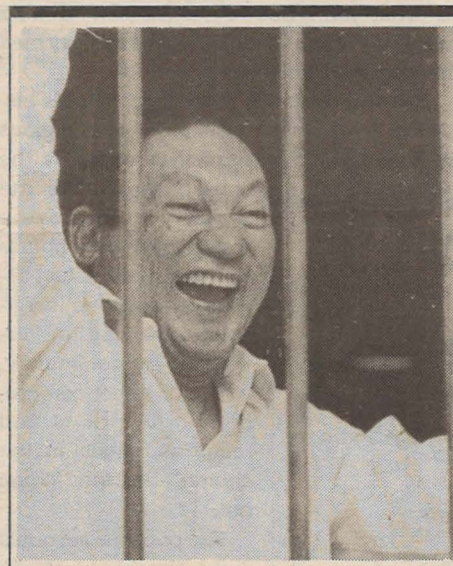


Two's New Hours

UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP • THE TRADITION CONTINUES
NASHVILLE'S PREMIER GAY DANCE BAR • 2529 FRANKLIN ROAD • (615) 385-9689

LOOSE LIPS

Yellow is definitely your color!



Manuel Noriega. Is he or isn't he? Only his dermatologist knows for sure. — DARE FILE PHOTO

"Even while [General Manuel] Noriega's power was growing, the bisexual side of his personality began to emerge..."

"The macho officer, proficient in judo and parachuting, would perfume himself heavily on off hours and wear yellow jump suits with yellow shoes, travel the world with a male pal with whom he was rumored to be having a torrid affair, and surround himself with openly gay ambassadors and advisers."

"One friend of Noriega's says he like homosexual advisers because they were easier to blackmail, but one of his gay advisers explains the attraction otherwise — 'He is a spiritual and soft man and likes to be around spiritual and soft people.'"

"Noriega would joke that the only Panamanians without balls were the men — 'the queers and the women are the only courageous ones.'"

"Armchair psychiatrists credit Noreiga's sexual confusion to his gay brother, Luis Carlos Noriega, the only person Noriega ever trusted completely."

— From a sidebar to NEWSWEEK's January 15 cover story on Manuel Noriega. The sidebar was entitled "A Walk on the Bisexual Side."

"And leave your sissy clothes at home."
— Vinnie "The Pazmanian Devil" Panziena to Hector "Macho" Camacho in a television ad promoting their upcoming bout for the world welterweight boxing championship. This, coming from a man who wears tights to work.

"Hello all you sodomites and all you straight people who like a more interesting sex life. If the people in that state building are so interested in what I do with my genitals, I'd like to tell them that I'm not wearing any underwear."

— Lesbian comic/activist Lea DeLaria in opening remarks at the rally held earlier this month to protest Georgia's sodomy laws.

"There was some recognition in 1989 of the fact that many of the ills that kill us are self-induced...too much alcohol, too much food, drugs, homosexual unions, cigarettes..."

— 60 MINUTES' pundit Andy Rooney, in his Dec. 28 CBS special, "A Year with Andy Rooney: 1989."

"Rooney's implication about AIDS being caused by homosexual unions was not only bigoted but also wrong from a medical viewpoint."

— Craig Davidson, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), reacting to Rooney's comments.

"If we conclude he's uneducable, we will ask for his dismissal, but we want the chance to get an apology first."

— Davidson, again, explaining that GLAAD representatives want to meet with Rooney to discuss the situation.

"I find the argument that it's a virus, and not homosexuality, that kills to be spurious. It's the same argument the gun lobbyist uses when he says it's criminals, not guns, that kill."
— Part of a letter Rooney intends to send to THE ADVOCATE as a means of apology to lesbians and gay men worldwide.

"I'm not going to pass a statute to force people to hire someone. It doesn't make good sense."

— Tennessee state senator Bob Rochelle (D-Lebanon), on why he won't introduce legislation to overturn the Tennessee law which excludes people with AIDS from employment anti-discrimination statutes. Rochelle was talking to the NASHVILLE BANNER as part of a series called "Living with AIDS."

"If I'm an employee and I'm in that at-risk population, I'm not likely to go and be tested because I don't trust the system."

— State Rep. Paul Starnes (D-Chattanooga), one of several legislators who have tried unsuccessfully to repeal Rochelle's amendment, to the NASHVILLE BANNER.

"The myth is that it's spreading from 'hetero' to 'hetero' to 'hetero.' I want to set the record straight. I want people who are at high risk to know they're at high risk. I want people at low risk to know they are at low risk."

— Michael Fumento, author of the newly published book, THE MYTH OF HETEROSEXUAL AIDS, in an interview with USA TODAY.

"It's myopic to think that heterosexuals are one hermetically sealed group, gay men are another and IV drug users are another."

— Kenneth Moyer, researcher studying AIDS and heterosexuals at Brown University School of Medicine, Pawtucket, R.I.

"I don't think it's inappropriate to be frightened about multiple partners. One thing I've learned in fighting the epidemic is that no one walks up to a prospective sexual partner and says 'I'm bisexual, let's talk about it.'"

— June Osborn, chair of the National Commission on AIDS, to USA TODAY.