

You love 'em!  
Free personals — details in  
Marketplace, page 11.

# Dare

Inside this week:  
Pages — our quarterly  
book section

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 8

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

FEBRUARY 23, 1990

## Vanderbilt gets \$6.5 million Grant will enable AIDS vaccine trials to continue

by JACKI MOSS  
Staff Writer

A \$6.5 million grant recently awarded to Vanderbilt's AIDS Vaccine Evaluation Unit will ensure that research by the unit will continue for another five years.

According to Lois Wagner, coordinator of the project, "This keeps us alive and assures that we may continue ongoing trials and open up trials of vaccines that will need testing in the future."

Study results last year from Tulane University showed that monkeys could be vaccinated against an AIDS-like virus, giving researchers cause to believe that a protective mechanism against AIDS or an AIDS vaccine is a reasonable, attainable goal.

Wagner said that there are currently more than 60 potential AIDS vaccines undergoing rigorous and lengthy tests, with Vanderbilt being just one of a handful of testing sites.

"We don't anticipate that the vaccines being studied right now will be the vaccine that actually works. This is a complicated and lengthy process. We are at least a decade away from having a vaccine that definitely works because it takes a long time to develop drugs, to test them, to work out ethical and manufacturing issues and things like that. Historically, it takes a long time for vaccines to be developed," noted Wagner.

Part of the difficulty with the current trials is finding

volunteers who meet the study criteria.

According to Wagner, this study uses a modified smallpox vaccine and therefore volunteers for the study must have never had a smallpox vaccine in order to elicit a true response.

"It's very difficult finding adults who have never been vaccinated for smallpox," said Wagner.

Additionally, other eligibility criteria must be met, as well. Volunteers must be healthy, uninfected adults who are at low risk for acquiring HIV infection. They must make a year-long commitment to the study and be fairly flexible so they may work several visits to the evaluation unit into their schedules.

"It is also important that volunteers have some life experience who can understand the potential for what we are doing and who can understand sophisticated concepts and information," noted Wagner. After a year and a half of searching, only seven people have proven eligible for the trial. More people are needed, so potential volunteers are encouraged to apply. Obviously, the more people who apply to the program, the more likely it will find suitable subjects.

"It's very important for us to find eligible so we may continue to get closer and closer to an AIDS vaccine," Wagner said. "The people who participate in the program are true pioneers who are taking some amount of" **continued on page 6**



Honey Lee Cottrell contributed her photographic studies of women bikers for a book published by Clothespin Fever Press. Meet the two women behind the company, Jenny Wrenn and Carolyn Weathers, in this week's Centerpiece. — PHOTO BY HONEY LEE COTTRELL

## '90 Census to tally unmarried couples Activists debate viability of data concerning same-sex unions

by JEFF ELLIS  
Editor

A governmental effort to determine how many unmarried heterosexual couples there are in the United States will also provide for the first-ever gathering of data about same-sex couples.

The United States Census Bureau

will, for the first time, include a question for unmarried couples. Although some lesbian and gay activists have mounted a last-minute effort to convince the Bureau to target same-sex couples, it is unlikely it will happen. Census takers will begin compiling their figures in April.

Census forms, mailed to every household in the United States in late March, do not specifically address sexual orientation. However, among questions asked is one dealing with relationships among those making up the household, including categories for "non-relatives."

In the "non-relative" category, the phrase "unmarried partner" was added for the 1990 census. By cross-referencing the responses to "sex" and "unmarried partner," the Census Bureau will be able to compile data on same-sex couples.

"Ordinarily, the Census Bureau ritual would be of little or no consequence to the lesbian and gay community. But this year things are slightly different. Unlike past na-

tional counts, the 1990 census could have a direct impact on some of the issues affecting lesbians and gay men," said Ivy Young, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) Lesbian and Gay Families Project.

"The Census Bureau has been roundly criticized for its failure to alert affected groups that the question even exists, or for that matter, what 'unmarried partner' actually means," Young said. "There has been no outreach effort, no community education, no discussion with lesbian and gay activists in particular, about how best to ensure that the question is understood and answered accurately."

Only lesbians and gay men who answer the census questionnaire as "unmarried partners" will be counted in the survey. Some lesbian and gay activists have predicted that less than ten percent of same-sex couples will answer the survey truthfully.

However, a survey conducted by" **continued on page 13**

## Reports of "gay-bashing" episodes sought for study

from STAFF REPORTS

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) is urging local activists and organizations to provide documentation on harassment and violence for its "1989 Anti-Gay Violence, Victimization and Defamation Report."

Questionnaires have been sent to some groups and organizations throughout the country, seeking statistics on anti-lesbian/gay hate crimes committed in 1989.

In Tennessee, Gay and Lesbian Lives in Progress (GALLIP), a Nash-

ville-based organization, is compiling data for the report. Executive director Penny Campbell said those with reports should call the GALLIP hotline at (615) 297-0008.

The survey collects information on a variety of anti-lesbian/gay incidents, including harassment, threats and menacing actions, bomb threats, physical assaults and thrown objects, vandalism, police verbal and physical abuse, arson, homicide and others, according to Kevin Berrill, director of the NGLTF Anti-Violence Project. •

## I N S I D E

Dare this week

See the U.S.A!  
And forget the Chevrolet.  
Cross Country, page 4.



You must go see it:  
My Left Foot.  
Screens, page 6.



Sonny and Cher  
...and Chastity  
Loose Lips, page 15.



### What? No trivia? What gives?

Looking for answers — and still more questions — in the official Dare 100th-issue trivia quiz?

Unfortunately, you won't find them in this week's paper because of our special quarterly book issue. But next week, be sure to see "Centerpiece" for the answers to last week's first 50 questions, along with 50 all-new and improved questions to tease your brain.

And be sure to look for details about how you can win prizes for your correct answers. •

## D A T E S

## Big events



## Another Dance

Saturday, February 24

**Women's Dance** ANOTHER DANCE, sponsored by Random Productions. At Laurel Theatre, 1538 Laurel Av, Knoxville. 8pm. Info (615) 688-3428.

Monday, February 26

**Meeting** AT THE LIBRARY, Black & White MEN Together / Memphis. Mtg Rm A, Main Library, Peabody & McLean, Memphis. 7:30pm. Info (901) 726-1461.

Monday, March 5

**Fundraiser** For Warehouse Warriors softball team. All-you-can-eat lasagna, \$5. Free wine. Showing of TORCH SONG TRILOGY & THE WOMEN. At Warehouse Two, 2529 Franklin Rd, Nashville. 6pm. Info (615) 385-9689.  
**Open meeting** Board of T-GALA. At offices of Watts, Underwood & Rubinfeld, 2000 Richard Jones Rd #150, Nashville. 7pm. Info (615) 269-6778.  
**Consciousness Raising** Black & White Men Together / Memphis. 7:30pm. Info (901) 726-1461.

Saturday, March 10

**Buddy Training** AIDS 102. Sponsored by aids Response Knoxville (aRK). Space limited; please register. 1320 N Central, Knoxville. \$15. 9am-4pm. Info (615) 523-AIDS.

Saturday &amp; Sunday, March 10 &amp; 11

**Workshop** SEXUAL ATTITUDE REASSESSMENT. Focuses on attitudes about sexuality, inc. homosexuality. Continuing education credit available. Sponsored by Vanderbilt University & Council on Human Sexuality. Space limited; please register. Nashville. \$99 / person, \$45 for full-time students. 8:15am-6pm. Info (615) 322-2081.

Sunday, March 11

**Covered Dish** St. Patrick's Day potluck dinner. MCC / Tri-Cities. At Holston Valley Unitarian Church. Info (615) 926-4393.

## Free publicity!

Your nonprofit event can be listed free in Dates. Phone (615) 327-Dare or toll-free (800) 544-Dare, or write to Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422. Please include time, location, cost, sponsor, and a contact person's name with address and/or phone number for verification. Deadline is 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.
- **Phoenix** (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info (901) 272-9549.

## Just like clockwork

## 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.
- **Women's Support Group** Vanderbilt AIDS Project. 1st & 3rd Tue only. 6:30pm. Info (615) 322-AIDS.
- **Al-Anon** Closed meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.
- **Caregivers' Support Group** Vanderbilt AIDS Project. 1st & 3rd Tue only. 7pm. Info (615) 322-AIDS.
- **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 Ten** 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 Methodists. 4th Wednesday only. 7pm. Info (615) 366-6448.

- **Gay / Lesbian Addictions Anonymous** Meeting, Belmont United Methodist Church. 8pm.

## Thursdays

- **Incest Survivors Anonymous** Closed women's meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd, 6:30pm.
- **Family Support Group** Vanderbilt AIDS Project. 1st & 3rd Thu only. 7pm. Info (615) 322-AIDS.
- **AIDS / ARC Men's Group** Vanderbilt AIDS Project. 7pm. Info (615) 322-AIDS.
- **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. 7:30pm.

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

## Tuesdays

- **LE TSA** Lesbians of East Tennessee & Surrounding Areas social / support group. 1st & 3rd Tue only. Info Box 905 Mountain Home, TN 37684.
- **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.

## Fridays

- **Women's Night** Metropolitan Community Church, 7pm. Info (615) 926-4393.
- **Men's Night** Metropolitan Community Church, 7pm. Info (615) 926-4393.

## Errata

- Last week's advertisement for Journey (Vol. 3, No. 7, page 13) was in error. It should have read, "This Friday 2 shows at 11 pm and 1 am \$2 cover."
- We apologize for the error and are glad to correct the record.

# LOCAL COLOR

compiled from STAFF REPORTS



**Mitzi Gaynor** stars in the quintessential Cole Porter musical *ANYTHING GOES* when the Tennessee Performing Arts Center presents the national tour March 20-25. For tickets, call (615) 741-2787. — DARE FILE PHOTO.

## Murfreesboro

### MTSU Lambda to host statewide meet at Lebanon park in April

Middle Tennessee State University's Lambda Association continues to accept registrations for its first statewide gay and lesbian picnic weekend, set for April 7-8 at Cedars of Lebanon State Park in Lebanon.

The two-day event will be held at a group lodge located in the park, just off Interstate 40 in Lebanon, and will include overnight accommodations, dinner and breakfast, hiking, softball, volleyball, entertainment and a late-night dance.

Cost is \$12 per person and \$20 per couple. Persons attending are asked to bring bed linen and personal towels and wash cloths.

All lesbian and gay support organizations in Tennessee have been asked to attend.

Among items on the agenda is a discussion of lesbian/gay activism in Tennessee and goals for the '90s, a spokesperson said.

Deadline for reservations is March 24. Persons interested in attending are asked to pay in advance, so that proper accommodations can be arranged.

Persons interested in performing during the Saturday evening show are also asked to contact organizers as soon as possible.

For details, write Daniel Webster at P.O. Box 624, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37132, or call him at (615) 896-9541. •

## Nashville

### Tennessee Opera Theatre to present Menotti twin-bill

Tennessee Opera Theatre will present Gian-Carlo Menotti's *THE MEDIUM* and *THE TELEPHONE* February 24-25 at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center's Polk Theatre.

Under the leadership of artistic director Daniel Killman, the company hopes to live up to the reputation earned last season with the premiere production of *AMahl* and *THE NIGHT VISITORS*.

Serving as stage director is Sean McGinty, an actor-director who has worked with many regional opera companies and has even co-directed with Menotti himself. Music director

is George Skipworth, current head of Opera Memphis' touring program.

Production designer is Craig Spain, with lighting design by Chris Wilson. Most recently, Spain designed the set for the Nashville Ballet production of *THE NUTCRACKER*.

Singing the title role of Madame Flora, the bogus spiritualist, in *THE MEDIUM* is contralto Kay Carter Baker.

Others in the cast include soprano Ruth Ann Vowan, local actor Brian Hull, Julie Freeman, Keith Moore and Rebecca Barker Griffin.

In *THE TELEPHONE*, Lucy will be sung by Nan Gurley and Ben by Willis Farris.

Curtain is at 8 p.m. on Saturday, February 24, and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 25. Tickets are available through TicketMaster. •

### Warehouse Warriors to stage fund-raiser on March 5

The Warehouse Warriors softball team will host a fund-raiser Monday, March 5, at Warehouse 2, 2529 Franklin Road in Nashville.

Starting at 6 p.m., an Italian feast will be offered, featuring all the lasagna you can eat and wine for \$5. A cash bar will also be open.

Following dinner, the films *TORCH SONG TRILOGY* and *THE WOMEN* will be shown.

Warehouse Warriors are a part of the recently-organized Music City Sports Association. •

## Tri-Cities

### Teen support group forming

Teens-in-Action, a recently-organized group in the Tri-Cities, is a support group for teenagers and young adults up to the age of 25, according to Ryan T. Salyer, director of the group.

"We want to bring young people together, instead of leaving them alone with nothing to do," Salyer said.

"So many of them feel like they are left out and unwanted in society."

Salyer said the group will meet each week, with occasional weekend gatherings planned.

For more information, write Salyer at P.O. Box 5103, Kingsport, Tennessee, 37663. •

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**CROSS COUNTRY**by **KAREN MATHIS**  
Editorial Assistant**NAMES Project film  
nominated for Oscar**

SAN FRANCISCO — COMMON THREADS: STORIES FROM THE QUILT, the critically acclaimed feature documentary about the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, has been nominated for an Academy Award for best documentary, announced Wednesday, February 14.

The documentary, along with the Quilt, was also screened at the 40th Berlin International Film Festival February 10-18.

COMMON THREADS, directed by Academy Award winner Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, originally aired on the Home Box Office network in October 1989.

It is presently having a theatrical run in Los Angeles and will soon be available on videotape. •

**Openly gay man to run  
for Boston city council**

BOSTON — An openly gay white man declared his candidacy Jan. 27 for a Massachusetts House of Representatives seat currently held by a black man who has been a strong supporter of the gay and lesbian community.

Mike Duffy's announcement that he will run — as a Republican — against the incumbent, Byron Rushing, was greeted with enthusiasm by some members of the gay and lesbian community.

Others, however, expressed dismay that a white gay man would run against Rushing, a progressive Democrat who is an advocate for civil rights and economic justice and a long-time supporter of the gay and lesbian community. •

**Helms derides gays and  
lesbians in re-election bid**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), the leading opponent of the recently passed federal hate crimes statistics act, announced his candidacy for a fourth term in the U.S. Senate on January 13, 1990.

Helms declared that "homosexuals and lesbians (are) disgusting people, marching in our streets demanding all sorts of things, including the right to marry each other."

Tim McFeeley, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the nation's largest gay and lesbian political organization, responded with a direct challenge to Helms.

"Any politician who categorizes millions of Americans — people who pay their taxes, serve their country, build communities, lead productive lives in every work setting in the United States — as 'disgusting' is unfit to hold public office," McFeeley said.

THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, a major North Carolina newspaper, responded to Helms' anti-gay/lesbian remarks in an editorial: "When Sen. Helms describes homosexuals and lesbians as 'disgusting people' — as distinguished from human beings who do things he finds disgusting — he reveals what a mean-spirited man he is, how totally lacking in compassion he is for anyone who is, by his standards, different." •

Press reports indicate that none of the likely Democrats vying to replace Helms in the Senate are well known statewide. •

**Survey says gay/lesbian  
rights top concern**

MILWAUKEE — A random survey, taken by Doug Garfield and Chris Baster for Lambda Rights Network, of over 100 gay men and lesbians revealed what they believe to be the top issues for the '90s.

Seventy-five percent of all respondents identified expansion of gay and lesbian rights as the most important issue.

Some 40% expressed major fears about the rising anti-gay and lesbian violence.

Thirty-five percent expressed concerns for better cooperation between gay men and lesbians, while 33% are concerned about the level of fear and resulting "closetedness" in our community. •

**Lesbian Project ranks  
partnership rights tops**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Lesbian Issues and Outreach Project of the Human Rights Campaign Fund ranks partnership rights as their top issue for legislative advocacy, according to a recent survey. Following close behind were gay and lesbian rights, abortion/privacy issues and parenting concerns.

HRCF launched its National Family Registry on February 14, giving gay and lesbian families a way to publicly declare their relationship.

"It is time this country recognizes lesbian and gay families as entities just as important as the heterosexual families and just as deserving of support from our country's legal system, the mainstream media and in everyday culture," said HRCF executive director Tim McFeeley, in response to the survey. •

**NGLTF starts post card  
campaign**

WASHINGTON, DC — A massive post card campaign to increase support of the federal gay and lesbian civil rights bill in the U.S. Congress has been launched by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

The post card campaign is targeted at virtually every member of the House and Senate. NGLTF urges gays and lesbians to send post cards to their congresspersons and senators.

NGLTF has printed a first-run of 40,000 post cards, half for the House and half for the Senate.

Each participant fills in the name of the Congressperson/Senators, their own name and address, writes a personal message, signs the card, then mails it to the pre-printed address.

The campaign, which will run through June 1990, is part of an overall NGLTF gay rights bill lobbying effort.

For post cards and more information, write NGLTF Post Card Lobbying Campaign, 1517 U St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20009, or call (202) 332-6483. •



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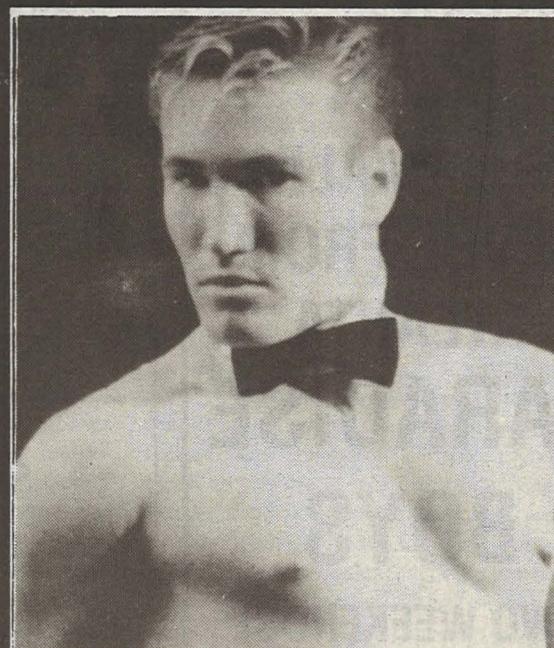
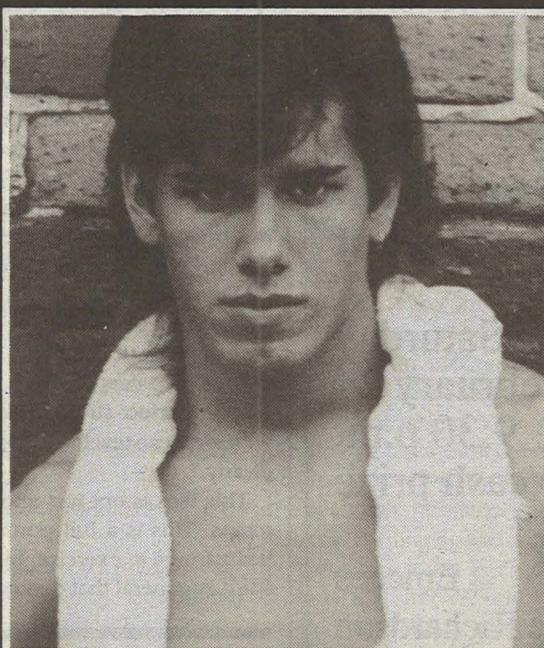
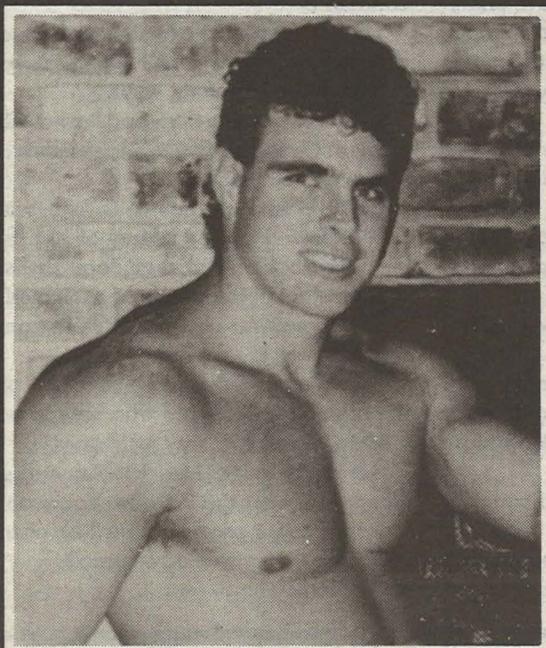
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Sunday February 25

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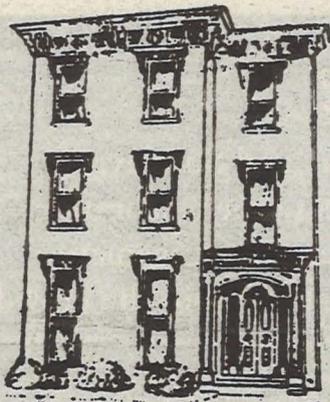
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## SCREENS

### *Don't miss this film*

**MY LEFT FOOT.** Directed by Jim Sheridan. Starring Daniel Day-Lewis. Screenplay by Shane Connaughton and Jim Sheridan, based on the book of the same name by Christy Brown. 1989.

reviewed by **FLYNNE MALONE**  
Staff Writer

**YOU'D BETTER** see **MY LEFT FOOT.** It's enormously satisfying, enormously Irish.

It has an Oscar-nominated performance by Daniel Day-Lewis (*MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDRETTE*, *A ROOM WITH A VIEW*, *THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING*), in the role of real Irish writer and painter Christy Brown, that gives no trace of acting and every evidence of a genuine, ornery, funny, talented, cantankerous, compassionate person with cerebral palsy.

Cerebral palsy means having a potentially splendid, magical mind in a body that people presume to contain a retarded person, or as Christy Brown was labeled as a child, "a mental deficient."

The title derives from the only part of Brown's body that would obey his commands.

The rest of him was wrapped tight in a twist of muscular distortion beyond mental control.

Brenda Fricker, playing Christy's mom, deserves her Academy Award nomination for best supporting actress. She has a clear soul like the white Irish light that shines in understanding, in maternity, in belief and strength.

This light resonates throughout the movie illuminating the reality of Irish passion for pattern, for family, for words.

It was words Christy had to learn to force out and, in the midst of his unintelligible bellows, agitated squirming to say his meaning, he comes to find voice with the aid of Dr. Eileen Cole, a therapist enchantingly played by Fiona Shaw.

These scenes, reflective of the whole film, are not without comedy.

Dr. Cole takes Christy's initial rejection of help in perfect stride saying, "If you'll work with me, I can teach you to say 'Fuck off' more clearly."

This film is not just another sad song for gimps. This is a full portrait that has all its heartstrings in exercise, but it is more about spirit in general that overcoming difficulty in

particular.

Christy Brown could evidently be quite a lout. More power to his full memory.

I can't say enough about Day-Lewis' performance. I have always admired actors who can look unattractive ever since Bette Davis in

*OF HUMAN BONDAGE* and *POCKETFUL OF MIRACLES*. But this goes beyond that. Day-Lewis and Hugh O'Connor, who brilliantly plays Christy as a young boy, have a shining fierceness in their eyes even when they are realistically and unappealingly contorted and drooling, temporary prisoners in a near useless body.

I have come to understand gayness as a handicapping condition, and therefore I think it especially appropriate for gay people to see *MY LEFT FOOT*.

But before you rise up (I pray and hope), let me say that I see being male, female, ethnic, fat, skinny, old, young, left-handed, southern, yankee, poor, uneducated, humorless, and just about everything else that anybody can hold against anyone else, a handicapping condition.

That's the point: we're all handicapped in certain ways, and we're all sailing above it in certain, more important ways.

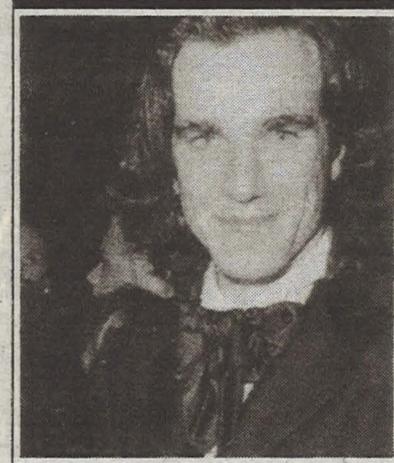
Style is everything here, and I'm not talking fashion. Christy Brown is a great stylist, one well worth emulating.

**IN THIS FILM** is the real Dublin, with its particular understated beauty of streets that are plain and cobbled, with doors that shine of the colors of the minds of a talented, ancient people who are very different from the British.

Brown apparently had a blessing full of this fire of the island people who are renowned worldwide for their way with words.

Get ready for St. Patrick's Day and get a glimpse of what the Irish do. You won't be disappointed, I promise. You'll be changed and more than a wee bit charmed.

No Blarney here. •



### *...vaccine trials*

• Continued from page 1

potential risk without a lot of benefit for themselves except they know they have made a contribution."

"Although no one will get AIDS from the trial, there is a possibility that they may test positive on certain AIDS tests. The real problem with this is not a medical one, because no one is in danger. The problem comes from possible social stigma attached to testing positive, even though you will not have the infection and won't develop infection from

this trial," said Wagner.

Physical risk is minimal, according to Wagner: "We certainly do not anticipate any danger to the volunteers, but this is an experiment, and we can't absolutely guarantee no physical risk ever."

When someone applies to the program, they undergo a complete physical evaluation, several briefings on the study and exactly what it entails, and discussions of the various aspects of participating in a clinical trial. •

# Pages

OUR WINTER BOOK ISSUE

## PREVIEWS: Books to come

compiled by **SHERRE DRYDEN**  
Book Editor

### Fiction, Poetry, Drama

• **AFTERLIFE.** Paul Monette. New York: Crown, March 1990.

Three men in Los Angeles must pick up the pieces after their lovers die of AIDS.

• **THE ART LOVER.** Carolé Maso. Berkeley: North Point, May 1990. \$18.95.

• **THE BOY WHO WAS BURIED THIS MORNING.** Joseph Hansen. New York: Viking, May 1990. \$16.95.

• **BY WORD OF MOUTH: LESBIANS WRITE THE EROTIC.** Edited by Lee Fleming. Gynergy, 1989. \$12.95.

• **CRIME AGAINST NATURE.** Minnie Bruce Pratt. Ithaca: Firebrand, 1990. \$8.95.

The 1989 Lamont Poetry Selection by the Academy of American Poets. The title comes from language in the statute under which Pratt would have been prosecuted as a lesbian had she sought legal custody of her two sons.

• **DOC & FLUFF.** Pat Califia. Boston: Alyson, May 1990. \$8.95.

Califia's latest, a futuristic lesbian S&M novel.

• **FAIRYLAND.** Sumner Locke Elliott. New York: Harper & Row, March 1990. \$17.95.

Orphaned, seduced by another schoolboy, Seaton Daly moves from one unsatisfactory affair to the next. The pre-World War II homosexual world in Sidney, Australia, is depicted as dangerous and transient.

• **FLUTE.** Shona Ramaya. New York: Viking, 1989. \$17.95.

• **GOING BACK TO THE RIVER.** Marilyn Hacker. New York: Vintage, March 1990. \$9.95.

• **HOWTOWN.** Michael Nava. New York: Harper & Row, April 1990. \$16.95.

• **JUST SAY NO: A PLAY ABOUT A FARCE.** Larry Kramer. New York: St. Martin's, 1990. \$12.95.

• **LEAP YEAR.** Peter Cameron. New York: Harper & Row, 1990. \$17.95.

• **LITTLE BITS OF BABY.** Patrick Gale. New York: Dutton, May 1990. \$18.95.

When Robin gave up a promising career to start a new life at an eccentric monastery, he gave no explanation, but it was thought to have something to do with the engagement of his friend Candida, to Jake, their mutual admirer. When Robin returns, and falls in love with his mother's best male friend at the christening of Candida's baby, he has little idea how extraordinary the consequences will be.

• **MOVEMENT IN BLACK: POEMS.** Pat Parker. Ithaca: Firebrand, 1990. \$18.95, \$8.95.

Firebrand has reissued the work of the black lesbian poet, who died last June at the age of 45.

• **NEW, IMPROVED! DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR.** Alison Bechdel, Ithaca: Firebrand, April 1990. \$16.95, \$7.95.

• **PEOPLE IN TROUBLE.** Sarah Schulman. New

York: Dutton, 1990. 240 pp., \$17.95.

Kate, an artist and married woman who loves her husband, Peter, discovers the pleasures of lesbian sex. Molly, Kate's young lover, feels neglected by Kate's attachment to Peter and anguished as she watches her friends die of AIDS. Molly, and then Kate, become involved with Justice, a group of AIDS activists who turn to guerilla tactics in frustration.

• **THE SALT POINT.** Paul Russell. New York: Dutton, March 1990. \$17.95.

Anatole, a hairdresser, loves Leigh, "Our Boy of the Mall," a great adolescent beauty, a teenaged hustler. Leigh has a affair with Lydia, Anatole's best friend. Christopher, before Leigh's arrival the object of Anatole's and Lydia's desire, also pursues Leigh. Russell, who was reared in Memphis, depicts their four fates in a novel that's "Sinclair Lewis' MAIN STREET shot through with drugs and an atomic fusion of doubt."

• **SEXING THE CHERRY.** Jeanette Winterson. New York: Atlantic, April 1990.

A novel by the author of *ORANGES ARE NOT THE ONLY FRUIT* and *THE PASSION*, set in Restoration London.

• **VIRAGO.** Karen Marie Christa Minns. Tallahassee: Naiad, 1990. \$8.95.

On a small college campus young lovers Manilla and Ginny have only each other. Darsen, who knows that Ginny cannot withstand her powers, awaits the ideal circumstances to bring the young woman under her vampire's spell.

• **WHY ISN'T BECKY TWITCHELL DEAD?** Mark Richard Zubro. New York: St. Martin's, March 1990. \$15.95.

Jeff Trask was seen leaving a party with his girlfriend—now he's the prime suspect in her murder. Teacher/sleuth Tom Mason and his lover, professional baseball player Scott Carpenter, dig into the lives of Tom's colleagues, pupils and their parents as they try to prove Jeff's innocence.

• **WILDERNESS TREK.** Dorothy Tell. Tallahassee: Naiad, 1990. \$8.95.

• **THE WITCH.** Hugh Fleetwood. New York: Viking, 1990. \$18.95.

• **WOMEN ON WOMEN: AN ANTHOLOGY OF AMERICAN LESBIAN SHORT FICTION.** Edited by Joan Nestle and Naomi holoch. New York: New American Library, May 1990. \$9.95.

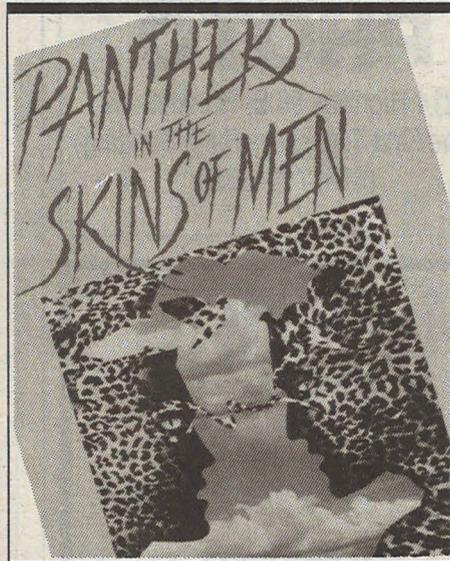
### Nonfiction

• **AGAINST NATURE: AND OTHER ESSAYS ON SEXUALITY, POLITICS AND HISTORY.** Jeffrey Weeks. Winchester: Rivers Oram, April 1990. \$17.95.

• **ART ISN'T EASY: THE ACHIEVEMENT OF STEPHEN SONDHEIM.** Joanne Gordon. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1990.

Gordon traces Sondheim's career from his initial success as lyricist for *WEST SIDE STORY* and *GYPSY* to the opening of *INTO THE WOODS*.

• **continued on page 12**



## REVIEW: *Panthers in the Skins of Men*

*PANTHERS IN THE SKINS OF MEN.* Charles Nelson. Secaucus, NJ: Meadowland Books, 1989.

349 pages, \$9.95 paper.

reviewed by **LLOYD LEWIS**

*Special to Dare*

**THE COVER OF PANTHERS IN THE SKINS OF MEN** announces that this "novel is a veritable thousand and one nights' tale told by Kurt to attract, fascinate and amuse." I was attracted by the homoerotic escapades of the anti-hero, Kurt Strom. I was fascinated by Kurt's ability, via Nelson's imagination, to conjure up countless scenes, occasions and contrivances for Kurt's sexual chutzpah. I was amused (and exhausted) by the sheer energy and volume of Kurt's bravado and macho manipulations.

This is a titillating read that most certainly provokes a pre-AIDS world of many men—gay and straight alike. Kurt's machinations to assure and insure endless erotic encounters on beaches, in YMCAs, in military barracks, on hoods of cars, in sleazy or opulent apartments and in several New Jersey warehouses do provide a page-turner of a story that describes and praises, by the sheer repetition of the accounts, non-stop genital ribaldry and release. Turning again to the cover, *PANTHERS IN THE SKINS OF MEN* is "a tale of a life-style that...is the stuff of our innermost fantasy world." My fantasy world must be awfully prescribed, because most of Kurt's sexual maraudings are beyond my imagination. This, of course, is not to say that his guerilla warfare eroticism is not the stuff of which other people's fantasy worlds are made.

Kurt Strom, a Vietnam veteran, was first introduced in Nelson's *THE BOY WHO PICKED THE BULLETS UP*, an account of Kurt's adventures, erotic and otherwise, in the military service of his country and other men. *PANTHERS IN THE SKINS OF MEN* picks up the story after Kurt has been discharged and let loose on an unsuspecting United States.

His long-time fiancé is strung along, emo-

tionally abused and made the patsy when Kurt uses her as the excuse and the occasion for venting his homosexuality. He almost learns to love Nick, a "brawny Italian state trooper from New Jersey," who, though very much married with several children, is intrigued by Kurt and the unfettered erotic behavior that is the essence of who he is. Kurt finally seduces Nick, approached loving him, then decides to use him in a particularly inhuman and homophobic sex-as-vengeance episode.

Perhaps Kurt's understanding of the role of genital sexual activity in human relationships is best heard in his statement after he eggs on an African-American football player to take him in a brutal act of anal intercourse: "A beautiful panther loathed me enough to drop the veneer of civilization and commit a savage act of destruction." Loath! Savage! Destruction! For Kurt Strom, these words circumscribe his understandings of human relationships.

As I have said, the novel is homoerotic. It most definitely is not a gay novel. It relishes the stereotypes of homosexuals who always act with unbridled lust. Gay men are "fags" who will go to any length to indulge their sexual desires.

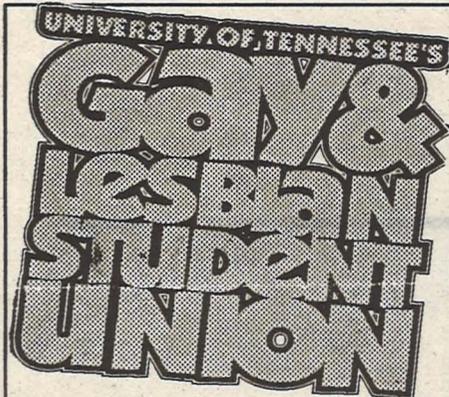
In one episode, Kurt, using the need to pick up his sister as an excuse for a trip to Boston for sex, answer's a buddy's question "Do a lot of fags play these games?" with "I imagine so, although most stick to a particular scenario. Usually transactions are aboveboard: a gay man offers money, a ride, a meal, a woman for another's favors. The powerful dangle jobs in front of their victims. I have nothing to offer, so I must resort to trickery and deceit."

Genital activity (and its frequency) defines what it means to be a homosexual person. There is no understanding or appreciation of the depth and breadth of human relationships that incarnate what it means to be a gay man. Granted that the novel is "historical" inasmuch as it is the account of a post Vietnam veteran. One wonders, however, why Nelson would not have included some of the growing awareness of the sixties that being gay meant more than non-stop sex. The novel is homophobic and will surely support the internalized homophobia of many gay men. In *PANTHERS IN THE SKINS OF MEN* sexual preference overwhelms sexual orientation.

The novel is also misogynist and racist. Women are to be used and scorned. Rape is "natural," and women are labelled with countless epithets. Nick's wife is described as a whiny breeding machine who ought not to make so many demands on her husband who, after all, provides for her and her children and deigns to have intercourse with her.

Kurt's racism is particularly virulent and with the expected references to odor, body

• **continued on page 13**



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*Jenny Wrenn and Carolyn Weathers*

**Jenny:** That was why the first book was done on an offset.

**Carolyn:** So was the second one. Jenny did one, a self-portrait of herself as an adult child of an alcoholic. Included in it — wasn't it four-color artwork that you had done? That was her second job on the offset press.

I was trying to get a little background about how publishing houses run by women got started in the past. I read an article in *ms.* from 1985 about feminist presses. The author said that, almost without exception, the women that she talked to explained that they became publishers because there was a book they thought needed to exist.

**Carolyn:** We feel like we're in the great tradition of women publishers, in that we're here because we have something to say, we want to be heard.

We want these lesbian voices to be heard. We're not in business just to be making money, though, god knows, we'd love to start making money. We'd put it back into the press, and get this thing rolling and healthy financially. But we're not anywhere near that.

When I solicited comments for *Dare's* story on the future of lesbian and gay books, over and over people predicted that there will be more lesbian and gay publishing by mainstream publishers. It seems that the one big difference between the mainstream publishers and the lesbian/feminist presses is that the mainstream publishers have a mission to make money. Do you think the predictions are true, do you think that will have an effect on content?

**Jenny:** I don't think that the mainstream presses will ever understand the lesbian community. That also figures into our mission, because we don't view lesbians as simply having a sexual orientation. We really believe that it's a minority population group.

I think that the mainstream presses won't ever really address a lot of who we are and how we live, just as they don't always address women's issues. We'll still be in the vanguard; we'll still be doing the most important work.

**Carolyn:** We're also in that long and noble tradition of small presses, which will always be there to be in the vanguard.

**Jenny:** We'll have to be careful,

**JENNY WRENN**, publisher, and Carolyn Weathers, editor, started *Clothespin Fever Press*, based in Los Angeles, in 1985.

Their first title, Carolyn's book *LEAVING TEXAS: A MEMOIR*, was published the following year. In 1989 *Clothespin Fever* published *IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT*, an anthology of lesbian writing, and Carolyn's novel, *CRAZY*.

*THE DYKE'S BIKE REPAIR BOOK*, which Jenny wrote under a pseudonym was published early this year.

**Sherre Dryden:** Why don't you start with some background about how you started *Clothespin Fever*.

**Jenny:** I've always wanted to have a business. When I met Carolyn and heard her do a reading of *LEAVING TEXAS*, I liked it very much. I found out that she had not been able to get it published for a couple of different reasons. It was a little bit over short story length and a little bit under chapbook.

I thought that was ridiculous; we should get it published.

So originally I was going to publish *LEAVING TEXAS*. That was going to be it. I didn't have any thought at that time about being a publisher.

I took a course on operating an offset press, and I ran it off and sewed it up. It was quite an enterprise. We started getting pretty excited about the idea of publishing.

At some point we sat down and started talking about whether this would be a publishing company, and if so what were our goals. What kind of books did we want to publish, and so on.

**Carolyn:** We didn't particularly have a political agenda, but there was definitely a strong political conscience.

**Jenny:** I felt personally that I wanted to make some sort of contribution to furthering the goals of women and particularly of lesbians. We both recognized that we didn't have a political agenda as such, but we had a strong feeling that lesbians were invisible and they should be heard. We decided right away that we just wanted to publish lesbian authors, and we felt that a lot of the publishers out there right now — sometimes the focus tends to be a little political or issue oriented.

**Carolyn:** Lesbians can write about anything and everything. The world is open, and we wanted to go about it with an eclectic approach. We started with no capital, just the enthusiasm and the commitment to do this.

by **SHERRE DRYDEN**  
Book Editor



Carolyn Weathers and Jenny Wrenn

## R P I E C E

## Members of Clothespin Fever Press

though, when we have something terribly successful. They're going to try and whisk it away. It could open up some new audiences for us.

We read straight books, and I don't see why straight men and women can't be reading lesbian books. We have something to say to them as well.

I've heard Rita Mae Brown say that she doesn't like what she calls the ghettoization of books in bookstores and libraries — the lesbian books are all together, the women's books are all together, the black studies books are all together.

the lesbian books are all together, the women's books are all together, the black studies books are all together. **Carolyn:** We had the same conversation, as it relates to libraries. It does put those books away from the other books, makes them harder to find. I don't like the

concept at all.

I do think it's handy in bookstores. It can help make lesbians even more visible in a general bookstore that does have a lesbian section, whereas lesbian books would melt into the background if they weren't put in a category.

**Jenny:** I think that in a library the fiction should be integrated, but I think the catalog should be a place where people can find lesbian books. I would love to see in a library some day a display of the latest lesbian fiction, hot off the press. I think that would be fun.

Jenny, when you responded to our survey for "Best Lesbian and Gay Books of the Eighties" you said you foresee less overtly politically correct writing and you think lesbians are relaxing and feeling better about themselves, and are therefore able to write about unappealing lesbian characters as well as humane ones.

**Jenny:** Our latest title, Carolyn's book *CRAZY*, is an example of that. I had been an editor of a gay and lesbian paper and they had the idea that they couldn't write about anything — certainly not a lesbian going crazy — because then the heterosexual world would see us all as crazy people. They were so caught up in the idea of trying to present a good image for straight people. Here we are, we're people out here and we're writing things for us.

We have problems, and we have good times, and you can't have this inferiority complex of always trying to present an image to get the ap-

probation of straight people. I felt very strongly about that, and still do. I'm a pretty independent kind of person and I dislike that kind of dependency on heterosexual society. The gay and lesbian world is a very large one. We should be writing books for our enjoyment and not paying attention to trying to reason with some of these irrational folks out there. If they don't get it, too bad.

What happens when the criticism comes from within the lesbian community?

**Carolyn:** A woman can write whatever she wants. That's her business and it's censorship to tell a writer that she can't write in such a way. The world is a big place, and we have the whole world in all of us. Any person does.

We can write about all aspects of life, including our own. We have good points, we have bad points. Why not be truthful and write about us as full human beings and not some cardboard politically correct figure.

Maybe I wouldn't like a certain book, maybe I would disagree with it, but so what. Jenny and I will even publish a book we don't like if we feel like it has merit.

The world is huge, we are in the world, we are part of it, and there's room for us to be all kinds of ways. In our anthology *IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT* what we wanted was the eclectic approach. We didn't have a political theme.

A woman didn't have to write about lesbianism. There's one story in there about a surreal ride this woman takes on a subway train. Political issues are important, too, they're in there, too. But we didn't want just one tone, one point. All we wanted were lesbian writers.

**Jenny:** If I got a manuscript that had no literary merit and was just simply nasty people, I wouldn't publish it. Ivy Compton-Burnett's people are nasty, I find her work very hard to read.

But her style is unique, and even though she does have nasty people, her work is very important. If she had come to me

I hope I could have recognized that and said it's hard for me to read this, but I see a certain merit in it and I would publish it. I would consider everything. I hope I don't get into trouble.

**Carolyn:** We're at a point where we don't have to feel that threatened. Jenny said she was independent. We both are. We're not bound by any party line.



Jenny Wrenn — DARE FILE PHOTO



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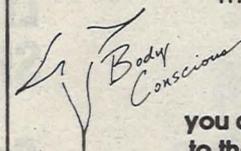
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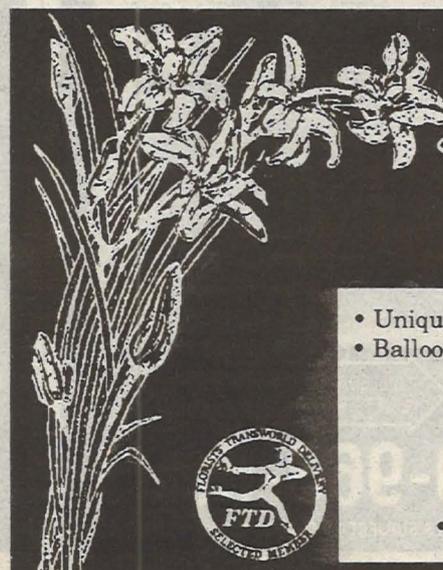
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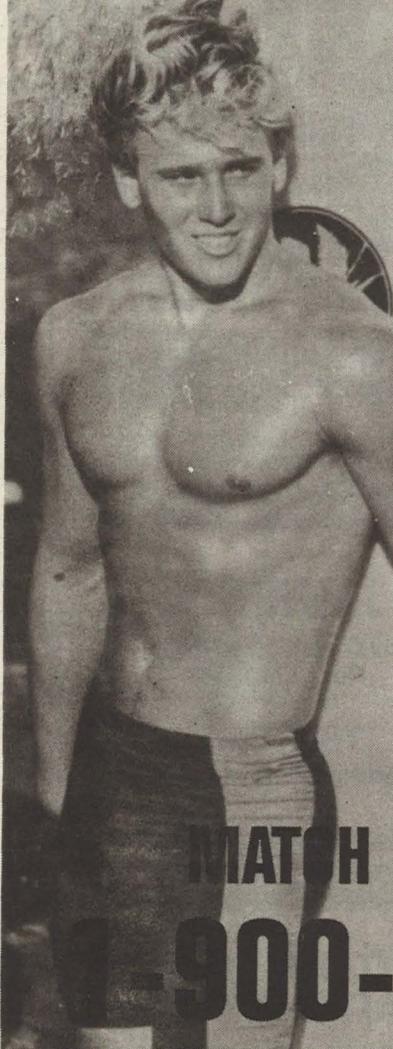
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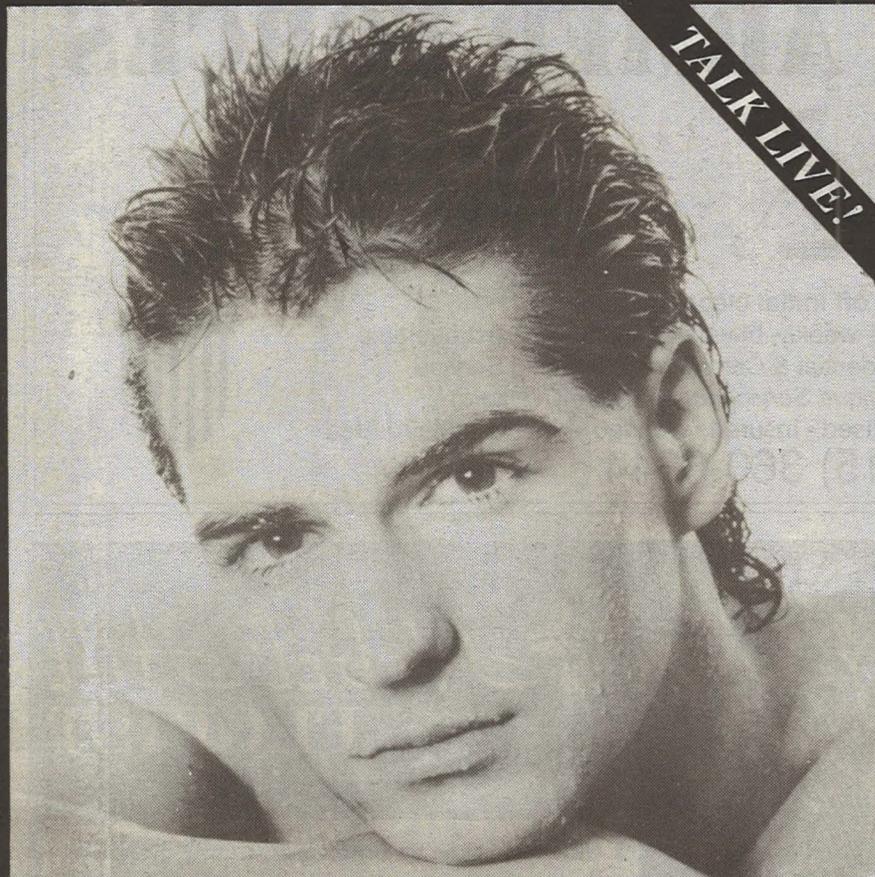
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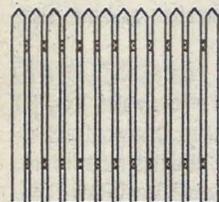
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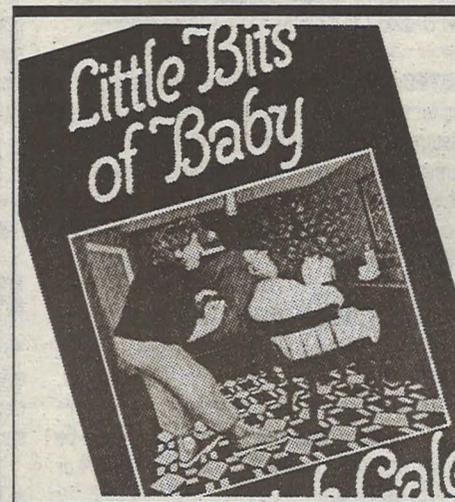
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**...Previews: Books to come**

• continued from page 7

- BEING BEING HAPPY BEING GAY: PATHWAYS TO A REWARDING LIFE FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MEN. Bert Herman. San Francisco: Alamo Square, 1990. \$8.

"Certainly we are not at this moment everything we have the potential to be, but the joy of living is the active process of fulfilling this potential, developing that which is already within us."



- BEING LESBIAN. Lorraine Trenchard. London: GMP, 1989. \$7.95 pa.

A handbook, with chapters on coming out, finding friends and health. The British origin makes some of the entries less than useful for American readers, but most of the text is fine — "Making Love to a Woman" is the same, either side of the Atlantic.

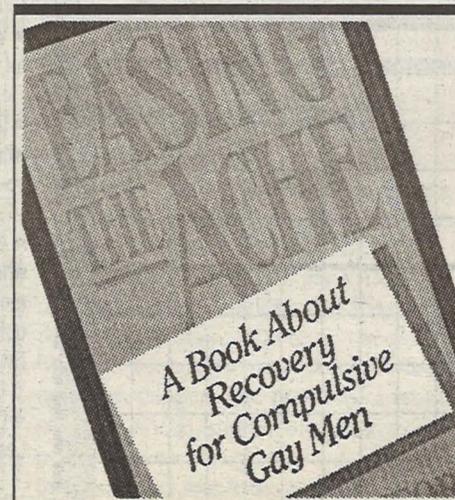
- BORROWED TIME: AN AIDS MEMOIR. Paul Monette. New York: Avon, March 1990. \$8.95.

- THE BOY-MAN: THE LIFE OF BADEN-POWELL. Tim Jeal. New York: William Morrow, March 1990. \$29.95.

Jeal defends the British military hero and founder of the Boy Scouts against charges of racism, fascism, plagiarism and hypocrisy. He discusses Baden-Powell's repressed homosexuality in relation to Victorian-Edwardian attitudes toward sex, particularly a fear of impending decline through a lessening of national virility.

- COMING OUT UNDER FIRE: GAY MEN AND WOMEN IN WORLD WAR II. Allan Bérubé. New York: Free Press, April 1990. \$22.95.

Bérubé contends that more than 9,000 homosexual women and men were diagnosed as sexual psychopaths and given undesirable discharges from the U.S. military between 1941 and 1945. In addition to documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, Bérubé interviewed 75 veterans.



- COSTLY PERFORMANCES: TENNESSEE WILLIAMS: THE LAST STAGE. Bruce Smith. New York: Paragon, May 1990. \$19.95.

Williams' publicity manager and confidant looks at his friend's last years.

- EASING THE ACHE: GAY MEN RECOVERING FROM ALCOHOL, DRUG, MONEY, WORK, SEX AND OTHER ADDICTIONS. David Crawford. New York: Dutton, May 1990. \$17.95.

The author describes his own compulsive behavior and uses the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous as a departure point for a program of personal transformation specifically tailored to the needs of the gay men.

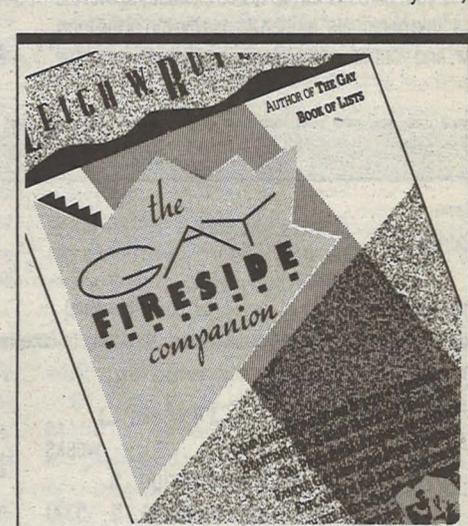
- ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HOMOSEXUALITY. Edited by Wayne R. Dynes. New York: Garland, 1990. \$150.00.

Over 770 articles, with contributors from all areas of scholarship, comprise this two-volume reference source. Thematic entries ("Sociology", "Labeling"), present different perspectives and are cross-referenced. Topical entries deal with particular times, places or phenomena ("Ancient Rome," "Homosexual Panic"). Biographical entries present figures from all walks of life, excluding living people. Each entry concludes with a selected bibliography.

- ENTER PASSWORD: RECOVERY. Elly Bulkin. Albany: Turtle, March 1990. \$7.95.

The Jewish-lesbian editor, activist and author writes about transforming the self through language.

- FROM FEMALE TO MALE: THE LIFE OF JACK BEE GARLAND. Louis Sullivan. Boston: Alyson, April 1990. \$8.95.



April 1990. \$8.95.

The biography of a transsexual in turn-of-the-century San Francisco.

- GAY FIRESIDE COMPANION. Leigh W. Rutledge. Boston: Alyson, 1989. \$8.95 pa.

This compilation by the author of the GAY BOOK OF LISTS includes entries on camp lines from the movies ("Oh, I'm so tired of just being pretty."), the invention of the button fly and fascinating mothers of famous gay men.

- HOMOSEXUALITY/HETEROSEXUALITY: CONCEPTS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION. Edited by David P. McWhirter, Stephanie Sanders and June Machover Reinisch. March 1990. \$45.00.

A collection of the work of researchers and clinicians in many fields — history, biology, psychoanalysis, primate behavior — who seek to understand what has been learned about the factors influencing sexual orientation, and what approaches and research tools are most appropriate for its investigation. This critical presentation of traditional views and recent theory is written for professional

• continued on page 13

## ...Panthers in the Skins of Men

• continued from page 7

type and genital size he summarily dismisses African-American, Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans and assorted others who are not WASP and well-hung. No one is beyond Kurt's disdain, and when he has sex with those he disdains he has done them a favor.

Most disturbing is Kurt's (mis)understanding of "otherness." The "other" is to be conquered, possessed and used. The "other" might be a gay man, a bisexual man, a woman, a person of different ethnic origin or race. Kurt overcomes otherness by violence and chicanery. Kurt's own otherness must be desired, worshipped, adored and craved by

the other he intends to subject to his sexual needs. Love and commitment are obstacles to be overturned. As Kurt replies when he is challenged by Paul to love Nick: "I'd rather squander my brief infatuations upon the unworthy...Love ends, Paul. I don't like pain."

One might want to feel pity, at least, for Kurt. But he is thoroughly unlikable, with his sex-before-anything approach to life. One fears that pity and love would be ridiculed and then used as a weapon. *PANTHERS IN THE SKINS OF MEN* is an intriguing, homoerotic, but homophobic, sexist and racist novel. Don't read it! There are better novels in which to invest your time. •

## ...Previews: Books to come

• continued from page 12

psychologists but is accessible to interested general readers.

• **HOMOSEXUALITY: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO COUNSELING GAYS, LESBIANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES.** Audrey I. Steinhorn and Helen B. McDonald. New York: Crossroad/Continuum, May 1990. \$16.95.

• **HOW TO BE A HAPPY HOMOSEXUAL: A GUIDE FOR GAY MEN.** Terry Sanderson. London: GMP, 1989. \$7.95.

• **HOW TO GO TO THE MOVIES.** Quentin Crisp. New York: St. Martin's, 1990. \$15.95.

"We should vacate our homes and go to a movie for the very reason that this exodus will force us to take the occasion seriously, to abandon everyday life..." The way to go to the movies is incessantly, reverently, critically.

• **KVETCH.** T.R. Witomski. Berkeley: Celestial Arts, 1989. \$7.95.

"Humor", mostly intended for gay men — including "101 Things You Can Do With a Straight Man." Numbers 17, 37, 54 and 67 have to do with RAMBO movies.

• **LESBIAN LISTS.** Dell Richards. Boston: Alyson, 1990. \$8.95.

All kinds of lists, including "6 Individuals Who Weren't Allowed to Testify on Radclyffe Hall's Behalf." A lot of this actually has little to do with lesbianism ("Alleged Effects of Masturbation"), but it's all moderately interesting. Keep a copy in your powder room.

• **LOVE BETWEEN MEN: ENHANCING INTIMACY AND KEEPING YOUR RELATIONSHIP ALIVE.** Rik Isensee. Prentice Hall, 1990. \$18.95.

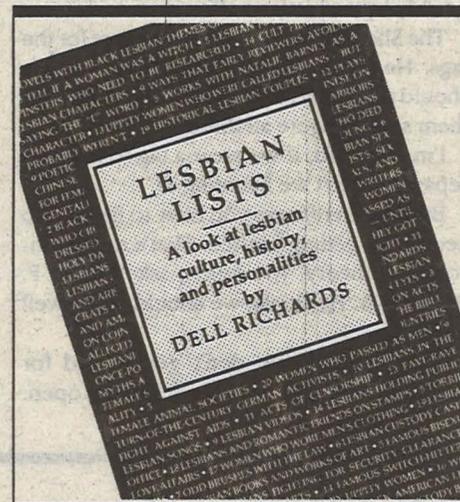
• **MASCULINE DESIRE: THE SEXUAL POLITICS OF VICTORIAN AESTHETICISM.** Richard Dellamora. May 1990. \$29.95, \$12.95.

• **MEN AND SEX.** Edited by Franklin Abbott. Freedom: Crossing, April 1990. \$24.95, \$10.95.

• **MOUNT VERNON STREET WARRENS: A BOSTON STORY, 1860-1910.** Martin Green. New York: Scribner's, April 1990. \$24.95.

Green focuses on Ned, the homosexual member of a family of five siblings who grew

up in elite Boston society. All of the children became known for their eccentricity and philanthropy; their interest in art collecting



linked them to leading figures of the period.

• **ONE SINGULAR SENSATION: THE MICHAEL BENNETT STORY.** Kevin Kelly. New York: Doubleday, 1990. \$21.95.

• **ROCK HUDSON: FRIEND OF MINE.** Tom Clark with Dick Kleiner. Pharos, March 1990. \$18.95.

• **SEXUALITY AND THE DEVIL: SYMBOLS OF LOVE, POWER AND FEAR IN MALE PSYCHOLOGY.** Edward J. Tejirian. New York: Routledge, May 1990. \$29.95.

• **TOM: THE YOUNG TENNESSEE WILLIAMS.** Lyle Leverich. New York: Grove Weidenfeld, August 1990. \$21.95.

• **TREASURES ON EARTH.** Carter Wilson. Boston: Alyson, March 1990. \$8.95 pp.

The story of a photographer on the 1911 Machu Picchu expedition.

• **UNCOMMON LIVES: GAY MEN AND STRAIGHT WOMEN.** Catherine Whitney. New York: New American Library, March 1990. \$17.95.

• **WILLA CATHER: DOUBLE LIVES.** Hermione Lee. New York: Pantheon, March 1990. \$29.95. •

counting of same-sex couples — a common criticism of census data collection methods among all minorities — but will, nonetheless, offer some numbers.

"The struggle to have our relationships and our families recognized and protected will assume much greater urgency in the decade to come. Accurate statistics gathered from the 1990 Census could provide us with a small, but important, weapon to help wage that struggle," Young said. •

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*Pageantry for the '90s*

## ...1990 Census

• Continued from page 1

THE WASHINGTON BLADE, a lesbian/gay weekly newspaper in the nation's capital, indicated that some 75% of those surveyed planned to answer the question honestly.

"Granted, THE BLADE survey was conducted in a major metropolitan area with a history of gay visibility," Young conceded. "Similar results may not emerge from some small town or hamlet. But they might."

Experts believe there will be an under-

## Dare

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

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

February 23, 1990  
Volume 3, Number 8

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## GAY BRIEFS

## That's really not my color

by JIM ROCHE  
Contributing Writer

WHEN MY brother and sister-in-law suddenly decided to move half way across the country to the town I live in, it became apparent they needed to be told something about, well, my notoriety as a gay person.

I hadn't ever discussed this with my brother — actually I'd spent about an hour with him per year for the past decade or so — so it never seemed a necessity. But I had discovered that this was an announcement that was best made at my discretion.

From experience I've learned that surprises of this sort are best avoided. The year before when my church found out that their "family man" minister was gay, all hell broke loose. I was the subject of half-page articles in the local paper, my congregation met to discuss my gayness, threats were made against my life. You name it, it had happened to me.

Although I have since left the church, members still harass me by calling employers to make sure they know I'm gay (I've lost several positions after phone calls from these people) and sending mail-order surprises. Some people can really hate.

Well, when my brother and his wife arrived in town, we went out for dinner, and before we even began, he said: "Everybody seems to know you around here. When I go places, people say, 'Why do I know that name?'"

I sat them down and broke the news.

"About my roommate David...I guess you could say we share more than the rent."

"Oh?"

Then the questions.

My sister-in-law first: "Well, what I don't understand is why you have to tell everybody?"

She then gave every cliché in the book, suggesting that I was harassed and losing my job because I was, you know, "flaunting it."

The conversation went on and seemed to end in a supportive gesture or two (they paid for dinner, which was very important to me as I wasn't too sure about my employability).

Her final suggestion: "Move back to New York; it's the only place you'll be happy...and, well, keep it quiet."

Translation: Don't flaunt it. Stop making lesbian and gay issues your life, why ruin your career over something so trivial? During this conversation, I found out that neither my brother nor his wife go to work and tell people they are heterosexuals! (I looked at the wedding ring on her finger and wondered...)

There's nothing wrong with being gay...but by letting people know, you're just asking for it...I'm sure you've heard this before.

Later I went home and picked up a copy of a gay paper and read the news from Bartow, Florida. It seems the county sheriff has a policy there that is, in his words, designed to "protect" homosexuals.

He says that he's afraid if incarcerated homosexuals were mixed up with the general jail population, "all hell would break loose."

Hey, I know that from experience. So, being as enlightened as most sheriffs are, he solved the problem by having all the lesbian and gay prisoners wear pink wrist bands. Yes,

that's right. If you're lesbian or gay, you are made to wear a pink wrist band so that you can be easily identified. So you don't get mixed-up!

When the ACLU asked about this, the Sheriff's spokesperson said there wasn't any real special reason for picking out pink. Other people have to wear other colors, like prisoners who are escape risks (can you be a prisoner and not be?). It isn't even pink, she said, it's "off red," adding "that's just the color that was available."

So far six lesbians have written to the ACLU to complain that after they were "pink tagged," they lost privileges and were treated harshly by corrections officers.

The Sheriff denies all of this, except for the tags. He thinks that's a good idea still. He should talk to my sister-in-law, and the two of them should figure all this out.

I'm confused, if we wear a tag to keep us separate, aren't we flaunting it?

But the Sheriff says you have to flaunt it to keep from getting bashed. That's not an uncommon theory, you know; ask William F. Buckley, Jr. He thinks we should all be well marked.

But...you see, we don't get bashed for flaunting it, or lose our jobs for being open.

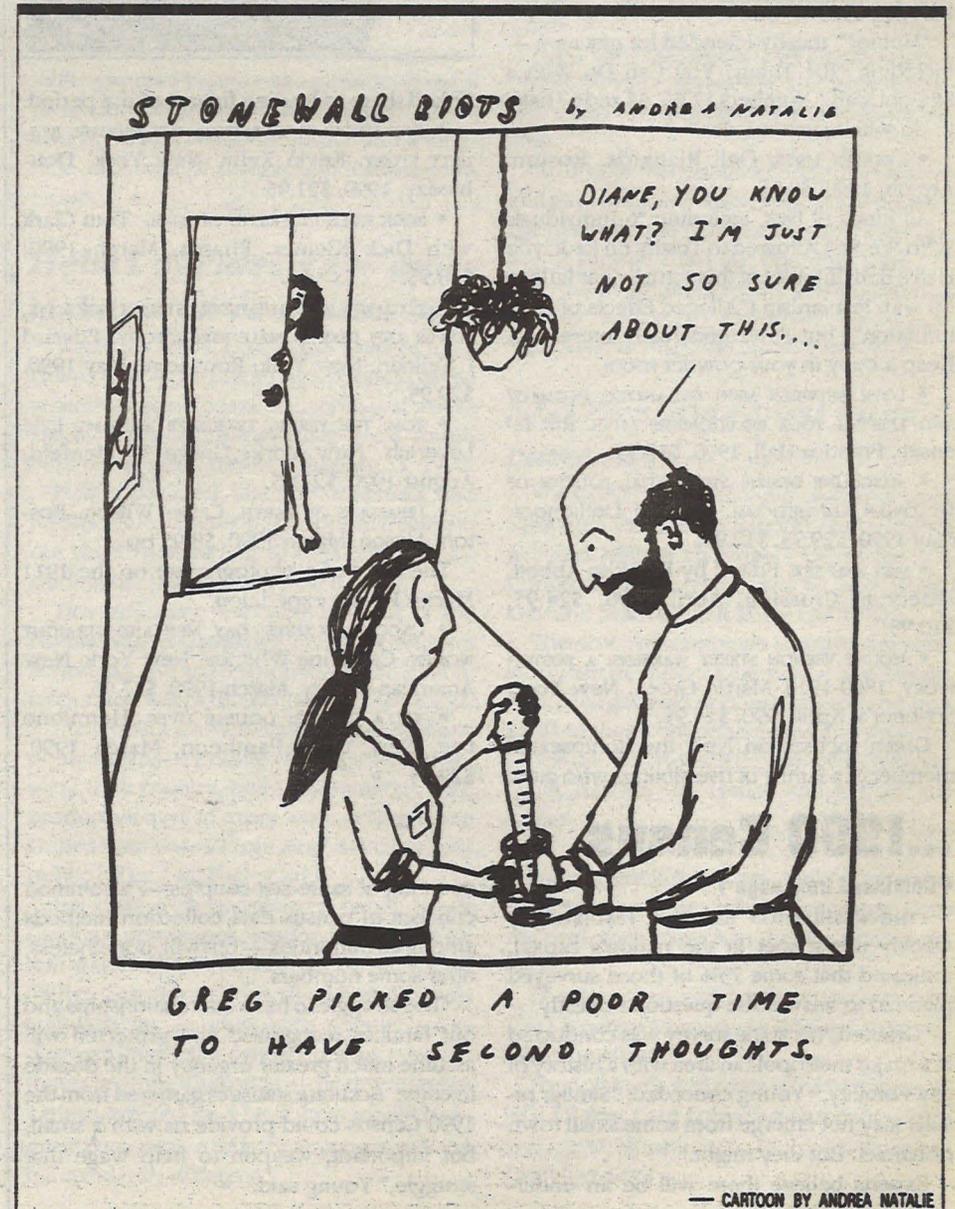
We get bashed and lose our jobs because we are who we are, and one way or another "they want to know....because...well...I guess they have to know. For these people, the problem is we (gays) might be anybody, right?"

I suppose that's why my brother and sister-in-law were both wearing wedding rings, so I would know. And everybody else would know. It seems people have to figure these things out so they can be sure if somebody is one of us or one of them. I suppose in some cases we could be one of them and one of us too. Depending on who they are. Or we are.

It's not the Sheriff's fault there are all these faggots around, right? And, well, he has to know. They all have to know, because if they don't, well then...I guess all hell would break loose.

WHAT'S A POOR BOY to do about coming out? Should he let everybody know? I've been working at it for a while, and all I can tell you is that some people seem to want to know, and some people don't want to know. My suggestion is that people who want to know wear yellow tags, and those who don't want to know wear, well, what color is left? That way I'll know who to tell and who not to tell.

Call that sheriff; he knows all about these color things. •



## L O O S E L I P S

**Sonny! Cher! Chastity!**

Chastity, Sonny and Cher, before they met Bob Mackie  
— DARE FILE PHOTO.

"Sonny blames Cher for daughter's gay nightmare."

— Cover blurb from the February 20 edition of the "fun...fascinating...factual" *GLOBE*, a supermarket tabloid you love to hate.

"Branded a Gay, Cher's Daughter Chastity Fights Back...The Truth About Cher, Men and Me."

— Blurb for an "exclusive" interview with Chastity Bono, appearing in the February 13 issue of the *NATIONAL ENQUIRER*.

"Cher Told: Daughter Chastity Filmed Lesbian Movie."

— Yet another supermarket tabloid — *THE STAR* — weighs in with a cover story about those wacky Bonos.

"Sonny blames Cher for everything. He thinks it's her fault that Chastity got negative publicity about being gay."

"If Cher wasn't such a flashy public figure with scandal following her wherever she goes, maybe Chastity wouldn't be so disturbed."

— Writers Paul Francis and Tony Castro of *THE GLOBE*, quoting "one of [Sonny Bono's] pals."

"Clean up your act. If it weren't for all your way-out antics, your men and those toyboys, maybe Chastity wouldn't be so disturbed."

"There you are, parading around on stage with no pants on for millions to see. You need to take a look at your life and do something about it — because no matter what you think, you're not a good mother."

— Sonny's "pal" relates a Bono tirade directed at Cher. Editor's note: "toyboy" seems to be a favorite word of the *GLOBE*'s staff. It's used in at least 25% of the stories.

"Cher's daughter Chastity Bono is raging mad over being branded gay in recently published reports — which also claimed Cher was devastated when Chastity confessed to her that she's a lesbian."

— *NATIONAL ENQUIRER* reporters Steve Herz and Patricia Towle, in their "world-exclusive"

interview with Chastity Bono.

"The reason I'm talking to the *ENQUIRER* is because the *ENQUIRER* has shown it's interested in the truth."

— Chastity, spilling her guts to a supermarket tabloid's team of reporters. According to the story, Chastity ("looking pretty in jeans, a sweatshirt and a vest") spoke with the reporters at a friend's office in New York City. She was drinking a Diet Coke. (Take that Diet Pepsi! — can an endorsement deal be far behind?)

"I live in an apartment in Greenwich Village with two other women — but they've been my friends since I was a student at NYU and it's a typical economical arrangement. I like to pay my own way and you show me any 20-year-old who can afford to live alone in New York."

"I date men. I don't have a steady boyfriend — I go out with guys I find appealing and I go out with them for however long we like each other."

"I guess some guys ask me out because of my mom, but the ones I go out with are interested in me."

— Say it ain't so, Chas, say it ain't so.

"Cher is trying to cope with another bombshell about her gay daughter Chastity — the girl once produced a raunching lesbian movie."

"The flick, part of a project Chastity worked on at New York University film school, shows two women kissing and fondling each other."

"Now her superstar mom fears that in the wake of Chastity's out-of-the closet confession, someone will get their hands on the film and give the family even more heartbreak."

— *THE STAR* reveals the latest news in "Chastity Lesbian Movie Shocker," a non-bylined story appearing in the February 13 issue.

"The whole class was nauseated afterward. It first starts out with two people — you don't see what they're doing at first or who they are."

"Then you see that it's two women in T-shirts and they start kissing. One woman's hand goes up the other's shirt."

"After she showed the film, she began explaining it. She kept going on and on about it. Even the professor was freaked out about it."

— A former classmate of Chastity's.

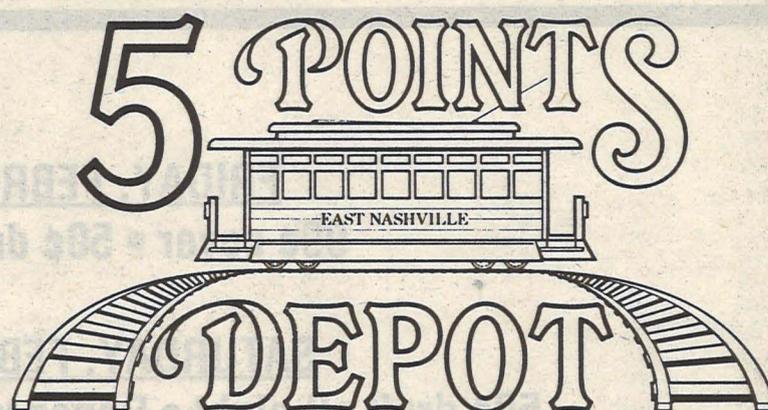
"Richard Pryor's son is a drag queen. Plus: Joe Louis' son to wed gay sweetheart."

— Cover blurbs from the February 27 edition of *THE STAR*. Apparently Chastity Bono is, at last, becoming yesterday's news.

"Comic superstar Richard Pryor's only son has come up with an outrageous showbiz act of his own — as a woman. He's a garishly-dressed drag queen who struts his stuff on a makeshift stage, collecting dollars and kisses from both men and women in — of all places — Peoria, Ill."

— *FROM THE STAR*.

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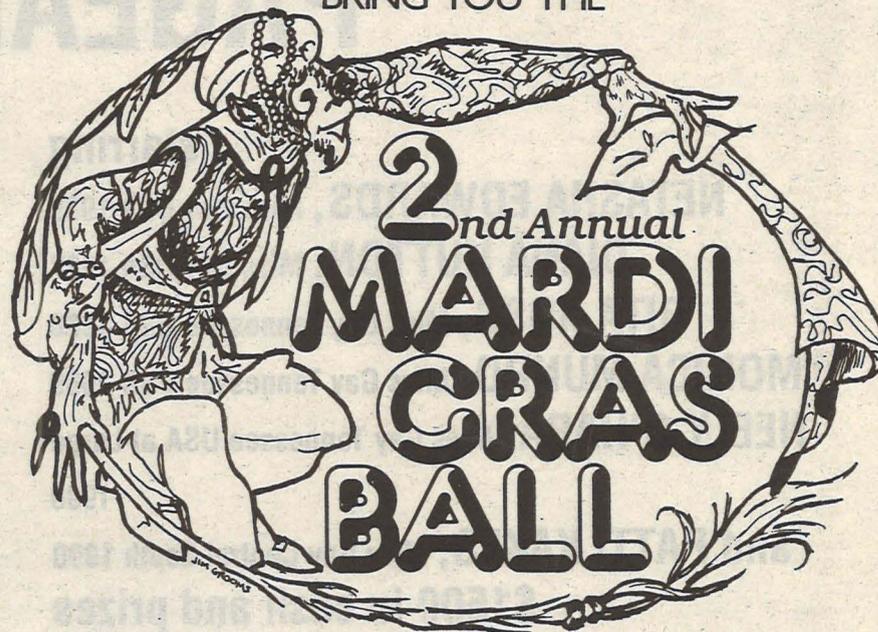


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\*COSTUME OPTIONAL

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**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

**50¢ draft all night • Dance with our DJ Ed Denson**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

# MISS GAY TENNESSEE USA PAGEANT

starring

**NETASHA EDWARDS**, Miss Gay USA 1989

**DIANA HUTTON**, Miss Gay USA 1987

**RITA ROSS**, Miss Gay Tennessee USA 1988

**MONICA MUNRO**, Miss Gay Tennessee USA 1989

**NEELY O'HARA**, Miss Gay Tennessee USA at Large

1990

and **PATTI KAKES**, Miss Gay Central South 1990

**\$1500 in cash and prizes**

**Doors open at 7 pm**

**Happy Hour from 7 – 10 pm**

**Buffet**

**Contest begins at 10 pm**



**Netasha Edwards**  
Miss Gay USA 1989

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