

# Dare

**Dare's  
Second  
Anniversary**

Volume 3, Number 11

Tennessee's Gay & Lesbian Newsweekly

March 16, 1990

## Commission issues first report to Bush

Makes recommendations on AIDS

by JACKI MOSS  
Staff Writer

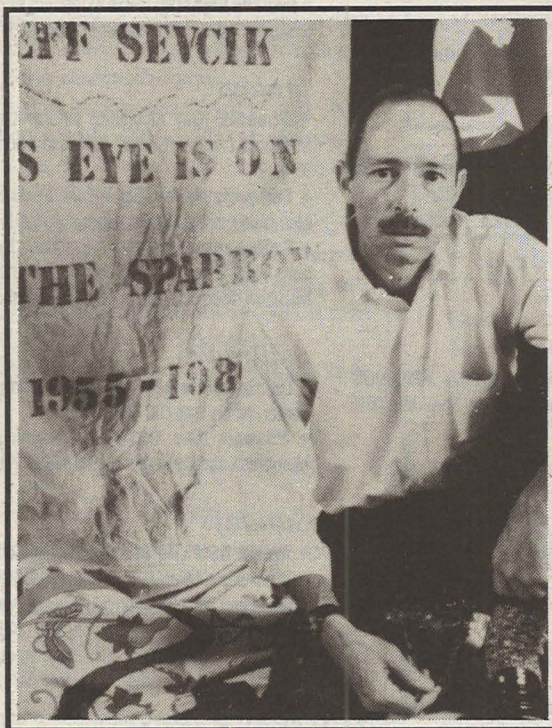
The National Commission on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome decided in December to give President Bush its first report early because, "The testimony...on health care and financing was so compelling, we felt it was vital to write you now, rather than wait until our statutorily required annual report next August. In fact, the Commission will continue to bring these urgent matters to your attention and the attention of Congress as we hear from the experts about the HIV epidemic and what is needed to respond to it."

Here are some excerpts from that report:

"The message from the experts was clear and alarming:

- There is a dangerous, perhaps even growing, complacency in our country toward an epidemic that many people want to believe is over.
- Far from over, the epidemic is reaching crisis proportions among the young, the poor, women and many minority communities. In fact, the 1990's will be much worse than the 1980's.
- The link between drug use and HIV infection must

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**COMMON THREADS:** STORIES FROM THE QUILT, a documentary film about the NAMES Project National AIDS Memorial Quilt, has been nominated for an Oscar for best feature documentary. This week, Flynn Malone reviews the film. Persistence of Vision, page 7. — DARE FILE PHOTO

## GALAPAC calls for more Lobbies for more AIDS money

by JACKI MOSS  
Staff Writer

The Gay and Lesbian Association Political Action Committee, GALAPAC, recently called for national organizations to mobilize their members in a phone lobby effort to demand an increase in the federal AIDS budget for 1991.

The federal budget is to be voted on by Congress in April, and according to GALAPAC officials, Richard Darman, director of the federal Office of Management and Budget has recommended no increase in AIDS funding for the upcoming budget. GALAPAC said that AIDS cases are expected to rise between 40% and 50% in the next year, while the Bush administration has requested a 7.5% increase in funding for the same time period, in direct conflict with the National Commission on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome's report calling for immediate and urgent financial and organizational responses to the epidemic. Current funding is about \$1.6 billion and is expected to go to only \$1.72 billion in the face of a growing epidemic.

"We are asking every person who attended the National March on Washington in 1987 to phone both their Senators, their Congressper-

son and the White House to demand an increase in AIDS funding, as well as early access to the drug ddI, which has proved to be both safe and effective against AIDS, said GALAPAC chair Howard Armistead. "A two or three minute phone call to Washington is cheap, easy and effective. Every single person who is HIV positive or has a friend who owes it to themselves to pick up the phone and call the Capitol immediately.

"Public pressure does get results in Washington, but politicians and bureaucrats fail to respond when they don't hear that demand loud and clear, and in significant numbers," Armistead said.

Armistead said that the gay community cannot allow this to be the "second Republican administration to sleep through the call to arms in the War Against AIDS. With more than a million and a half HIV positive people in this country alone, more lives are at stake than all the lives lost in wars in the 200 years of this nation's history, yet there is still no sense of urgency demonstrated by the administration. It's time to wake up this President to the urgent need for foresighted leadership on the issue," said Armistead.

GALAPAC materials call phone  
✦ continued on page 4

## Dreams of summer fun end in tragedy

Lover vows to find murderer of Aaron Overstreet

by JEFF ELLIS  
Editor

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With his favorite singer, Janet Jackson, on a nationwide tour, it looked as if summer 1990 was going to be an exciting time for 21-year-old Aaron Overstreet who, for the past several weeks, had been saving money to pay off the ticket scalpers.

But his dream of attending a concert was shattered earlier this month when a still-unknown assailant — or assailants — brutally murdered Aaron Overstreet and, as his lover David Adams put it, "threw him in the lake like so much trash."

Overstreet's body was discovered in Percy Priest Lake early Monday morning, March 5, by a fisher who was on vacation from his job as a food stocker at Kroger. The blond, blue-eyed Overstreet had been stabbed and shot several times, according to the police report, and had been dead for more than 24 hours when his body was found. The young man had been

missing for seven days.

Murder squad detective Mike Smith says police still have no suspects, but are continuing to ask questions of Aaron Overstreet's family and friends.



Aaron Overstreet

For David Adams, the round of questions continues: Where had Aaron been since February 26? What became of his clothes and jewelry? Why was the car Aaron was driving — found by police at Dover Glen apartments on Tuesday, March 6 — not discovered by

Adams himself when he searched the parking lot the day before?

And, perhaps the most difficult question that continues to haunt Adams: What could have prompted such a brutal attack?

But as persistent as the questions are, the answers may never be known.

Adams and Overstreet met about a year ago: "When I first met him, he'd talk to anybody...he'd try to impress them. He was working at a restaurant his uncle owned and he'd tell people he was co-owner, that type of thing. But he was only 20 when we met."

The two began seeing each other, but after "a month or two," they broke up. Eventually reconciling, they forged, Adams says, a strong, loving relationship. Friends began to notice a change in Aaron — he seemed happier, more at ease with himself and who he was. According to Adams, he stopped going to bars as much. He didn't cruise the parking lots and back streets around the city's adult bookstores.

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## Inside Dare



✦ **Queer art:**  
Artist Darlene Shadden looks for glamour, Centerpiece, page 7.

✦ **Out of the shadows:**  
Behind the scenes at The Shadow Box, page 10.

✦ **Loose lips:**  
At last! News in Newsweek, page 15.



# Mark your calendar

## + Big events



## Disappear Fear

### Friday, March 16

**Concert** DISAPPEAR FEAR. Benefit for Knoxville Women's Shelter. At Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 3219 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. 8pm. Info (615) 523-3888.

### Saturday, March 17

**Fundraiser** Welcome the Gay Nineties with the Board of NGLTF and executive director Urvashi Vaid. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Benefit for T-GALA & National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Nashville. \$25 / person. 7-9pm. RSVP and info Abby Rubinfeld, (615) 269-6778.  
**Fundraiser** A WOMEN'S SHOWCASE. Benefit for national conference in Atlanta. At 5 Points Depot, 103 S 11th, Nashville. \$4. 9:30pm.

### Thursday, March 22

**Meeting** PRIDE '90. Organizational meeting. Nashville. 7pm. Info (615) 297-4293.

### Saturday, March 24

**Dinner** Potluck dinner, followed by Consciousness Raising ARE YOU REALLY WHAT YOU EAT? Black & White Men Together / Memphis. 6:30pm. Info (901) 726-1461.

### Sunday, March 25

**Dinner** Covered dish dinner, followed by organizational meeting for People of All Colors Together (PACT). Nashville. 5-7pm. Info (615) 885-5054.

### Saturday, March 31

**Dance** HEATWAVE. Gays and Lesbians in Recovery spring dance. DJ, refreshments. Benefit for Gay/Lesbian Recovery Center. Woodbine Community Center, 222 Oriol Ave, Nashville. 8pm-1am. \$3. Info (615) 297-7867.

### Sunday, April 1

**Season kickoff** Music City Sports Association softball league. Games begin at Whitfield Park, Nashville. Mr. & Ms. MCSA Pageant fundraiser. Warehouse Two, 2529 Franklin Rd, Nashville. 10:00pm. Info (615) 385-9689.

### Monday, April 2

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

## + Just like clockwork

### Chattanooga

#### 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.

#### 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.

### Clarksville

#### Mondays

• **Clarksville CARES** Support group for HIV+, ARC, AIDS, family & partners. 1st & 3rd Mondays only. 3pm. Info (615) 648-7730.

#### 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

#### 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.

#### Sundays

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

### Memphis

#### Mondays

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

#### Tuesdays

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

#### Wednesdays

• **Agape New Life Church** Bible study. 7pm. Info (901)

276-1872.

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

#### Thursdays

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

#### Fridays

• **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) 895-9749.

### Nashville

#### Mondays

• **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. AIDS/ARC Support Group. 6:30pm. Info (615) 385-1510.  
• **Women's Support Group** Vanderbilt AIDS Project. 1st & 3rd Tue only. 6:30pm. Info (615) 322-AIDS.  
• **AI-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 Support/Education 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 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.  
• **Nashville CARES** Family & Caregivers Together Sharing. Alternate Fridays. 6pm. Info (615) 385-1510.  
• **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

#### Tuesdays

• **LEISA** 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.

#### Sundays

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

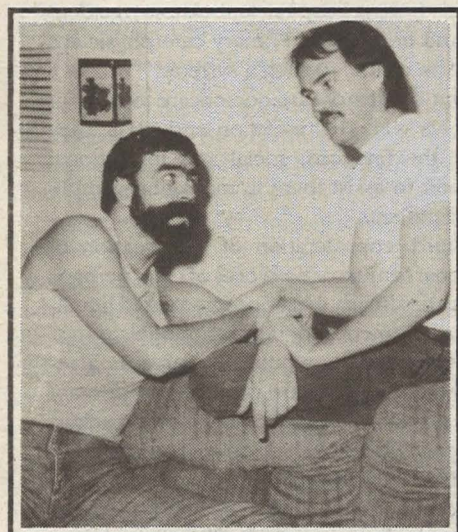
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# Local Color

compiled by **CURTIS BALLS**  
Staff Writer



**Vance Reger and Matthew Presley** are cast in the Lollipop Guild's production of Den-Nicholas Smith's new drama *BATTLE SCARS*, an examination of the leather lifestyle, to be presented at Memphis' Theatre Works March 18-20. — DARE FILE PHOTO

## Memphis

### New gay drama premières

*BATTLE SCARS*, a new drama by Memphis playwright Den-Nicholas Smith premières at Theatre Works March 18-20.

Vincent Astor directs Matt Presley, Vance Reger, Kerrel Ard and the playwright himself in an examination of the relationship between lovers and among friends, all of whom are into, or want to be into, leather.

The play deals with trying to understand the leather lifestyle, the misunderstandings and conflicts which often arise between those who do and those who don't, and the effect all this has on the characters' relationships with each other.

The play contains some "graphic depiction" and strong language.

*BATTLE SCARS* is sponsored by a roster of Memphis lesbian/gay groups and individuals including Wings, Women of Leather, Memphis Gay and Lesbian Center and Linda Vickery. Ticket prices are \$5 and are available at the door. Seating is limited. Theatre Works is located at 4145 S. Main Street. ♦

### BWMT board meets

Members of the board of directors of Black and White Men Together/Memphis heard a report from the Health committee that the organization's "Hot, Healthy and Horny" workshops, though successful, were met with a lukewarm response.

However, interested individuals will have a second chance to participate as the Committee plans a visit to The Apartment Club March 31 to do "individualized" workshops. HHH workshops strive to inform and enlighten participants on all-important and novel safe-sex practices. ♦

## Nashville

JCC's Shalom Theatre to

### stage 'A Shayna Maidel'"

"A powerful, haunting, and deeply affecting portrait of a family, which conveys the aftermath of the Holocaust through a poignant, imaginatively conceived examination of one divided family's experience", *A SHAYNA MAIDEL* features a cast of veteran actors in the production set for the Jewish Community Center theatre.

The play, which will be Shalom Theatre's first drama, features a company assembled by Mary Louise Smith (also manager for Circle Players), who directs the play.

The cast includes Lisa Truley and Julia Pennington, both Circle Player veterans. Bryan Cahen, Ed Brown and Eva Saks also appear.

*A SHAYNA MAIDEL* opens Saturday, March 24 at 8:00 p.m. with continuing performances March 25, 2:00 p.m.; March 29, 8:00 p.m.; and April 1, 2:00 p.m. Tickets from \$4-\$8 on sale at JCC, 801 Percy Warner Boulevard.

For tickets and reservations call (615) 356-7170. ♦

### Nashville Symphony pays tribute to Gershwin

A "Glorious Gershwin" weekend, set for March 30-31, will pay tribute to the genius of George Gershwin, the 20th century American composer, as part of the Nashville Symphony's Sovran Bank POPS concert series.

Critically acclaimed classical pianist Lorin Hollander, who debuted in Carnegie Hall at age 11 and has performed with every major orchestra in the world, is the featured guest artist. Hollander appears regularly on network/public TV and was the subject of Public Television's Emmy nominated *OLD FRIENDS NEW FRIENDS*.

Kenneth Schermerhorn will conduct the Nashville Symphony's two performances which are scheduled for 8:00 p.m. at TPAC's Jackson Hall. Tickets are \$12-\$23 and are available at all TicketMaster locations. VISA/Mastercard orders call (615) 741-2787 or toll free 1(800) 333-4849. Student discounts are available. For more information call (615) 329-3033. ♦

### Copello to speak to GALLSA

Gene Copello, president of the International Society for AIDS Education, director of the Vanderbilt AIDS Project and assistant professor of medical ethics at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, will be speaking on AIDS education and prevention in the Alexander Room at the Vanderbilt University School of Law, Thursday, March 22, at 7 p.m.

Sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Law Students Association at Vanderbilt's Law School, Copello's speech will address the topic of AIDS as a major global health emergency.

Copello's presentation will address the specialty areas of AIDS education and prevention and will review current approaches and methods in the context of meeting the challenges posed by changing social, economic and institutional environments and by changing communicating and information technologies. ♦

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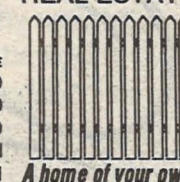
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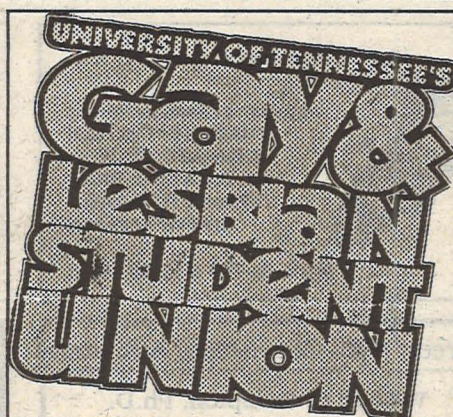
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## Juanita's

B A R

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

Saturday, March 17 • 25¢ Green Draft • 6 pm – 9 pm

**POOL TOURNAMENT** Monday, March 26 • \$3 entrance fee

Sunday 25¢ draft 4 pm – 8 pm

Monday \$2.50 draft beer pitchers all day

Tuesday is Movie Night • 25¢ draft & free popcorn 8 pm – 11 pm

Beer Bust – \$3 All you can drink

Wednesday 7 pm – 11 pm Saturday 2 pm – 6 pm

**Nashville's Sunday Night Party Place!**

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## ...Commission

✦ *continued from page 1*

be acknowledged and addressed in any national drug strategy.

• There is no national plan for helping an already faltering health care system deal with the impact of the HIV epidemic...

"Recent years have seen considerable advances in the development of new HIV-related drugs, including the prospect of treating HIV infection before symptoms develop.

"But scientific breakthroughs mean little unless the health care system can incorporate them and make them accessible to people in need.

"The belief that Medicaid will pay for the health care needs of the growing number of low income people with HIV infection and AIDS is, as one expert witness told the Commission, a 'Medicaid fantasy'.

"According to a 1987 Hospital AIDS survey, almost one quarter of all AIDS patients have no form of insurance, private or public.

"Less than 20% of the persons with AIDS treated in Southern hospitals were covered by Medicaid, compared with 55% in the Northeast and 44% nationwide.

"For the medically disenfranchised, there is no access to a system of care. For those who have no doctor, no clinic, no means of payment, access to health care services is most often through the emergency room door of one of the few hospitals in the community that treats people with HIV infection and AIDS.

"Five percent of the nation's hospitals treat 50% of the people with AIDS. For those who are covered by Medicaid, access to care is better than those who have no insurance at all. However, the obstacles to care under Medicaid funding can be insurmountable for many.

"One obstacle is the wide variation among states in Medicaid eligibility and scope of benefits. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), under considerable public pressure, has struggled with mechanisms to speed new drugs to the market. Yet there is no requirement that Medicaid make even life-prolonging drugs such as zidovudine (AZT) available...

"In summary, a series of problems have resulted in a health care system singularly unresponsive to the needs of HIV infected people: the initial appearance of HIV infection and AIDS in groups often shunned by the larger society - gay men, the poor, minorities, and intravenous drug users - encouraged a slow response, a gross lack of training support for primary care physicians to treat people with HIV infection and AIDS, and serious disincentives for physicians who take Medicaid patients and, perhaps, poor people in general."

The Commission listed in the report recommendations to the President:

"First, frank recognition that a crisis situation exists in many cities that will require extraordinary measures to overcome. Significant changes must be made not only in our

health care system but in how we think about the system and the people it is designed to serve. As one witness told the Commission, it can no longer be 'business as usual'.

"Second, the creation of a flexible, patient-oriented, comprehensive system of care, closely linking hospital, ambulatory, residential and home care. Primary care physicians must be central to such a system.

"But if primary care doctors are to care for patients with HIV infection and AIDS, they need the financial, social and institutional support to assist them in managing complicated patients.

"Third, consideration of the creation of regional centers or networks of care, perhaps using the already existing regionalized hemophilia treatment program as a model.

"These centers would not serve as a replacement for the care provided by primary care physicians, but would provide backup and consultation to help strengthen community based primary care.

"Fourth, create units which can treat patients who have both HIV infection and drug addiction. The availability of drug treatment on request is essential for responding to the combined HIV and drug epidemic that imperils not only drug users but also their sexual partners and children...

"Fifth, provide comprehensive health care services under one roof. Fragmented services create additional barriers to needed health care. Often mothers will seek health care services needed for their babies but are not able to then gain access to care for themselves.

"Health care services for women and children need to be provided in one place. For the homeless, housing and health care need to go hand-in-hand. This is true not only for those who are homeless today but for those who will become homeless tomorrow because of the HIV epidemic."

The Commission estimated the cost of their recommendations for direct medical care for people with AIDS in 1991 as ranging from \$2.5 to \$15.1 billion. The report said, "These estimates represent a small fraction of the total health care costs for the nation - from less than one to slightly more than three percent. We simply must be prepared to make these expenditures."

Although the Commission praised private sector voluntary AIDS service organizations saying they "have been all important in managing the HIV epidemic to date."

The report also stated that, as it was told, "We must move swiftly to bring the missing players to the table...this includes a greater presence of our federal, state and local governments in terms of leadership, financing and service delivery.

"It includes the support and cooperation of the insurance industry, employers, physicians and other medical providers and last, but not least, the pharmaceutical industry as well." ✦

## ...GALAPAC

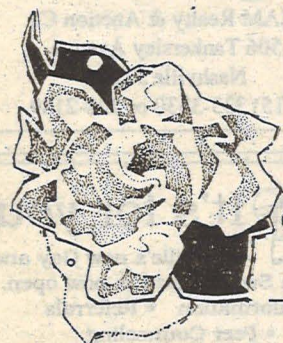
✦ *continued from page 1*

lobbying simple. The group recommends the following rules: 1) before you call, plan what you want to say based on facts and reason; 2) be polite; and 3) be brief.

According to GALAPAC, calling one's own representatives is most effective. Citizens may

call the Capitol switchboards at (202) 224-3121 for the Senate, and (202) 225-3121 for the House.

Callers should ask for their Congresspersons and Senators by name and state. The number of the White House Comment Office is (202) 456-7639. ✦



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# Cross Country

compiled by **KAREN MATHIS**  
Staff Writer

## Trenton, N.J.

### Umpierre receives lifetime achievement award

Luz Maria Umpierre, a Puerto Rican poet and critic, will receive a lifetime achievement award from the Coalition of Gay and Lesbian Organizations at a banquet to be held April 7.

Umpierre has filed charges against Rutgers University based on discrimination on the basis of sex and natural origin. After alleging that she had been discriminated against when she applied for the position of chair of the department of Caribbean studies, Umpierre was banned from teaching for nine months pending a psychiatric evaluation but was reinstated to her position as Associate Professor with tenure upon evidence that she suffered no mental illness.

However, as further retaliatory measures, her offices were removed from her department upon her reinstatement. Umpierre also claimed that then-dean of the college, Tilden Edelstein, held a meeting with her colleagues asking that Umpierre not be spoken to on campus.

Umpierre eventually resigned her position to accept the chair of modern languages and folklore at Western Kentucky University. ✦

## Washington, D.C.

### Senate rejects Armstrong's amendment

Earlier this month the U. S. Senate rejected Senator William Armstrong's (R-Colo.) amendment to the Human Rights Ordinance which would have allowed organizations in the District of Columbia to bar any gay man or lesbian from serving as a "role model, mentor or companion to any minor."

The victory represents the second time in less than a month that the Senate sided with the gay and lesbian community, the first being the defeat of Jesse Helms' (R-N.C.) amendment to the federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act.

Armstrong said that the law is being used to "force Big Brothers and other similar organizations to admit homosexuals into their program as counselors and role models."

He stated that the District of Columbia "should not be able to impose a requirement that these organizations accept people who have not historically been deemed suitable for that kind of work."

Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) devised the strategy and led the floor fight that defeated the amendment. Kennedy offered alternative language that would allow organizations to deny positions to heterosexuals, gays and bisexuals who have been charged or convicted of sexual offenses with minors. ✦

## Des Moines

### Iowa Supreme Court rejects trial court order

The Iowa Supreme Court recently rejected a trial court's order that a gay father be re-

stricted to visitation with his children only so long as "no unrelated adult" is present.

In lifting the restriction, the court stated that "[t]his unusual provision was obviously imposed on account of Michael's homosexual lifestyle." ✦

## St. Petersburg

### AGA to hold 20th annual national convention

The National Session of American of American Gay Atheists will be held in conjunction with the 20th Annual National Convention of American Atheists April 13-15, in St. Petersburg, Florida.

AGA's Special Session will feature two long time gay activists and the founders of AGA, Don Sanders of Houston, Texas, and Dominic Florio of New York City.

American Gay Atheists, Inc., is a non-profit, non-political, educational organization of gay and lesbian atheists dedicated to upholding the First Amendment principle of absolute separation between church and state.

Registration for the Convention is \$65. For information write AGA, PO Box 66711, Houston, Texas, 77266-6711, or call (713) 862-3283. ✦

## Campbellsville

### Man sentenced to 50 years for attack on victim

A white man who tried to murder a black man he believed was gay by beating him with a bumper jack, locking him in a car trunk with a live snapping turtle and then attempting to burn the car, was sentenced to 50 years in prison last month by a Campbellsville, Kentucky, jury.

A second suspect charged in the attack is undergoing psychiatric evaluation and has not stood trial.

The victim, Kirk Nash, 21, was assaulted by Rex Melton, 23, and allegedly by Ricky Johnson, 19. According to trial testimony, Melton and Johnson turned on Nash after he made sexual advances toward them while they were riding around in Nash's car drinking. ✦

## Boise

### HIV+ gay man gets life sentence for molestation

An HIV-positive gay man was sentenced to life imprisonment without possibility of parole in January for the molestation of a 15-year-old boy.

The sentence given to George Herbert Lewis, 52, is harsher than many given for first-degree murder in Idaho, which does not have a minimum mandatory sentence for child molestation.

Because Lewis is HIV-positive, the local Ada County prosecutor's office initially filed charges against him for deliberately exposing an unsuspecting person to the virus, a crime in Idaho.

Lewis was the first person charged under the law. ✦

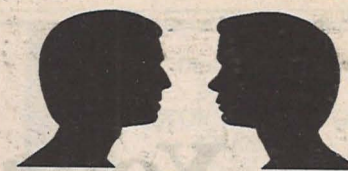
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## Not even George.



The 1990 Census gives lesbian and gay couples a chance to be counted for the first time, just by checking the box marked "unmarried couple." It's a terrific opportunity to show our numbers. Still, some people are afraid to fill out their Census forms accurately. They think the information might be used to discriminate against them. But the fact is that the U.S.

Census Bureau maintains high standards of confidentiality. By law, Census information about individuals can't be released to anyone. Not even the President of the United States.

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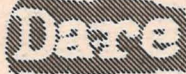
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## ...Aaron Overstreet

✦ continued from page 1

Instead, Aaron Overstreet became something of a homebody, doing domestic things like making dinner or doing the laundry. But he still made time for his friends who were, according to Adams, "his life."

On Monday, February 26, the last day that Adams saw his lover, "he seemed happier than he'd ever been."

"Late that night, he was going over to Dover Glen, to the old apartment, to get a load of stuff we had left there."

"He didn't come back."

Apparently, during that trip back to their old apartment, something happened that prevented Overstreet from returning home. But Adams has no idea what that chain of events is.

"There had been times — several months before — when Aaron would go stay out late, until the bars closed. But he hadn't done that in a long time. When he wasn't home by 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, I knew something was wrong," Adams says.

"I called everyone I could think of, his friends, his father and stepmother, his mother in Florida."

Aaron's family's reaction, Adams claims, was disinterest: "We haven't heard from him and don't know where he is. He's done this all his life, just disappear for a while with no word."

Aaron's friends, however, had a markedly different reaction: "They all said he would never have done anything like that. He was too happy."

"I just thought he had left me," Adams said.

But Aaron had taken nothing with him, a fact that seemed to dispel the abandonment theory.

Overstreet had planned to spend the weekend of March 3 with his father or sister.

When Adams called Overstreet's father, Aaron was not there, nor was he with his sister.

Finally, Adams reported his lover missing to the police.

Then in the early morning hours of Monday, March 6, a Metro police detective called with questions about Aaron's friends and habits.

Soon after that came the television reports that a young man's body had been found in Percy Priest Lake.

Adams was called to the Criminal Justice Center. Detectives still could not confirm that the body found in the lake was indeed that of Aaron Overstreet, although Adams says one detective let slip that Aaron was dead.

Eventually, forensic experts, using fingerprints obtained when Overstreet was arrested for driving without a license, identified the body. Aaron Overstreet had been shot four times and stabbed in the chest.

Early media reports said he appeared to have been beaten, his body covered with whelps. But an undertaker told Adams the whelps were actually slashes from a knife.

"He said they had to put rubber gloves on Aaron's hands because they were slashed. He said it looked like Aaron had tried to defend himself," Adams says, his voice breaking slightly.

"He said he didn't see how one person could have done all of that."

The very real horrors of Aaron's violent death continue to haunt Adams, the grieving process exacerbated by the mysterious

circumstances of the event and the callous attitudes of Overstreet's family toward Adams during the funeral.

"I took clothes to the funeral home for Aaron to be dressed in, but his family wouldn't let them be used because they had never seen him in them," he says.

While at the funeral home, Aaron's mother approached Adams and demanded: "I want you to tell me everything you know about my son."

"I'm not sure what all I told her. I guess I just rambled on for a while. I said, 'I tried to tell you he was missing and no one would listen.' She finally got up and walked off. Then my mother came and sat with me," Adams remembers.

Then Aaron's mother returned: "I want you to leave and I want you to leave now."

Adams and his mother left the funeral home, followed into the parking lot by Aaron's father and mother.

His father, obviously grief-stricken, told Adams: "I want you to tell all of his friends that I'm going to find who did this. I don't care how long it takes, if it's the last thing I do, I'm going to find who did this and take care of them"

"You'll have to get to them before I do," Adams replied.

On Thursday, March 8, the morning Aaron Overstreet was buried, his lover — told he was not welcome at the funeral — had to sneak into the back of the sanctuary to pay his last respects.

"No one knew I was there except for Aaron's closest friends."

"I had gone to the funeral home the night before, after his family had left. I guess it was around 2 a.m., and I talked to him. I know it sounds silly, but I just stood there and talked to him for about three hours," Adams says, tears welling in his eyes.

"Before it was just a box with a picture on top of it. But then I finally accepted the fact that he really was dead."

"I'm better now that I've gotten to see him. I talked it out with him."

"There's just no sense doing someone like that — he had been shot at least four times and stabbed and slashed with a knife."

"If he had robbed someone or was doing dope, there still wouldn't be any reason to do him that way."

"I just want to find out what happened. I don't care if he was screwing around or anything like that, I've just got to know what happened."

"Whatever it takes, whatever I have to do, I've got to just find out who did it," Adams says, his voice heavy with emotion.

Adams is offering a personal \$1,000 reward to anyone with information leading to the arrest of the person or persons responsible for the death of Aaron Overstreet.

He's also searching for someone, anyone, who might have some idea of how Aaron spent that fateful Monday night in February.

"Ever since he left that night, the porch light's been on, and all the lights in the house have been on, waiting for him to come home," Adams says.

"I'm still waiting for him to come in with that little puppy dog look on his face like he's sorry, like he knows he should have called."

But the door never opens, the phone never rings. Aaron Overstreet won't be coming home. ✦



# Persistence of Vision

## ✦ The common denominator

**COMMON THREADS: STORIES FROM THE QUILT.**  
Directed and edited by Robert Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman. Written by Robert Epstein, Jeffrey Friedman and Cindy Ruskin. 1989.

reviewed by **FLYNNE MALONE**  
Staff Writer

It's difficult to persuade people to watch a film about death, but I am attempting to do just that. Please look for **COMMON THREADS: STORIES FROM THE QUILT**, and when you find it, see it and take someone with you.

It's nominated for an Academy Award for

many memorials to individuals.

"We wanted to make a film...where the audience could shape the ideas for themselves...We hoped that people would cry, be moved by it and become angry — when people identify with the characters, that's when the story, and the issues, become important to them."

These words were spoken about HARVEY MILK, but they could certainly apply to **COMMON THREADS**. The strength of any film starts in the subjects, and these were well chosen. There's something chilling and challenging about a 12-year-old speaking in silhouette on



best feature documentary. I don't know what it's up against, but blindly I hope it wins so that more people will see it.

It is directed by Robert Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman. Epstein won an Oscar (with Richard Schmiechen) for the unparalleled **THE TIMES OF HARVEY MILK**. He also was a member of the Mariposa Film Group that produced **WORD IS OUT**. Friedman worked on the distinguished, award winning **NICK MAZZUCCO: BIOGRAPHY OF AN ATOMIC VET**. **COMMON THREADS** is narrated by Dustin Hoffman, and the music is by Bobby McFerrin.

With such a title, you would be correct to assume that this is a film about AIDS. It is also a film that must find its mainstream audience because it makes perfectly clear the ripples of so much unattended death. It features the stories of, yes, gay men (one the founder of the Gay Games), an IV drug user and a hemophiliac — the classic high risk groups, but it breaks down the stereotypes.

Using the style so refined in **HARVEY MILK**, the filmmakers weave the various stories told chiefly in mortal retrospection by members of their families, traditional and otherwise. Woven into this tapestry are network and local news clips, stills, home movie footage, all seamlessly edited against and with an undercurrent pulse or McFerrin's haunting chant-like scat, accompanied by synthesizer and the ten member Voicestra.

As in Randy Shilts' landmark book, **AND THE BAND PLAYED ON**, there is here, too, a yearly silent statistical toll of lives literally wasted away. Intercut is footage of the underlying fabric of the quilt of the NAMES Project, far too

a newscast to protect his identity, saying, "We didn't come from a different planet. We're still the same human beings they are." Yes.

The interviews are set in a soft key light that leaves room for the shadows, and that is appropriate for this film that is filled with intimacies remembered often in smiles and, only sometimes, in tears. What the light and shadow reveal is the deep beauty of real and difficult human emotion. This is about death and the individual response of jealousy, anger or retreat, to our inescapable common conclusion.

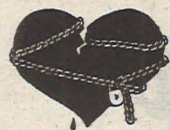
If this is a story about disease and death it is also very much a story about healing with a traditional medicine: quilting and "the connection of souls." Quilts are so close to life itself: communal creation, daily rest and warmth, blood, seed, sickness, tears and comfort all pressed into soft fabric that speaks the stories of the people who can speak no longer. The stories are, in some sense, always the same: that we're human, by God, that our threads *are* common in both the basic and the united sense.

Please, please see **COMMON THREADS**. Yes, it's sad. You might cry, but have the guts to look, to feel, to stay human, to stay alive. Be challenged to work for a time "when we can stop adding panels to the quilt."

**Editor's note:** Profits from **COMMON THREADS** will be donated to the NAMES Project. Videotapes are available for personal use only for \$49.95 plus shipping. For more information contact Real Video Limited in Los Angeles at (213) 652-8000. ✦

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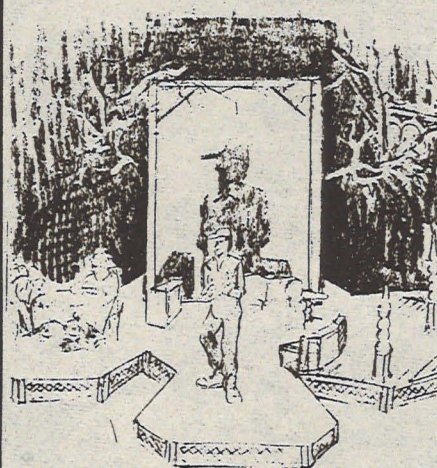
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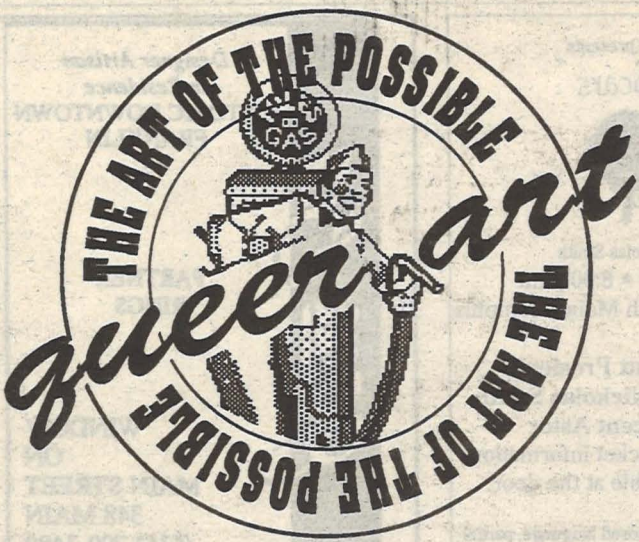
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**W**hen Darlene Shadden talks about her work, her eyes light up, her voice becomes excited, her actions relating her enthusiasm much more effectively than do her words.

She's one of the best known visual artists in the state, specializing in portraits that seem to capture the face of Tennessee—people of all colors, shapes and sizes pictured in scenes of all description.

Sharing her talents with

others, by exhibiting her works in a variety of shows—including shows at the Nashville Art Guild Gallery, the Tennessee Art League Gallery, the Parthenon, and the University Club—and by teaching painting to aspiring artists at the Robertson County Senior Citizens Center in Springfield, Shadden treats her audiences to highly creative, highly personal artistic works.

Her most recent show, opening at Nashville's Warehouse Two, 2529 Franklin

Road, on Thursday, March 15, features a collection of portraits of some of the city's leading female impersonators.

"I've always been intrigued with glamour, fascinated by it," she says. "And who's more glamorous than a female impersonator?"

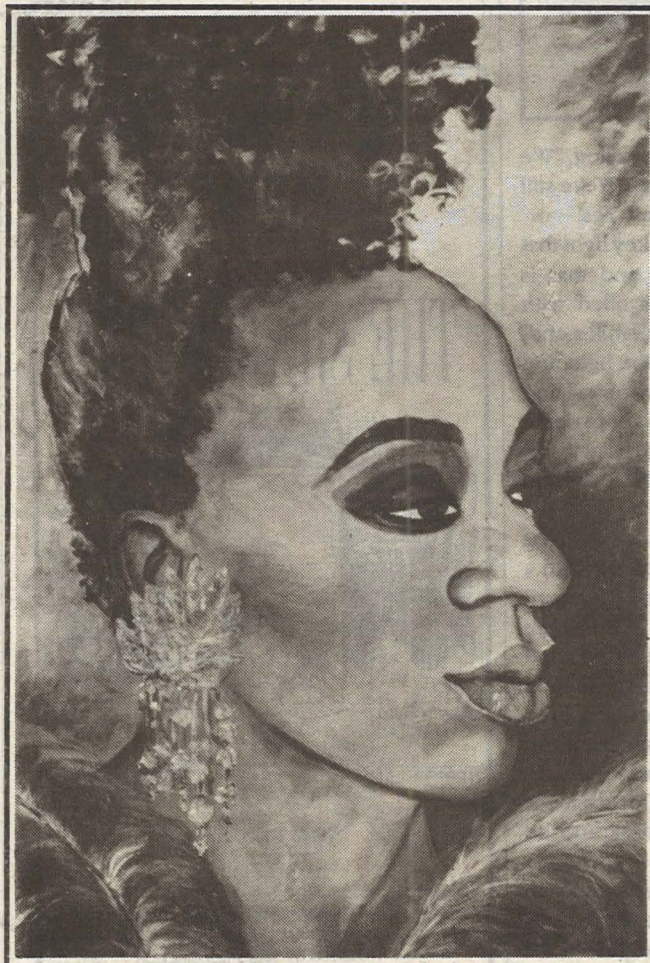
Nurturing the idea of a series of portraits of female impersonators for several months, she one day walked into a store and met someone who could open the doors for her.

"I walked into this store and there was a guy behind the counter who I knew was gay, so I said, 'Do you know how I could get in touch with some of this city's best drag queen?'" she relates.

"He said, 'Well, I'm one,'" answered the entertainer known as Monica Munro.

With that initial contact, Shadden and Munro set about interesting other performers in the project. Eventually, Warehouse Two cast members Bianca Page, Rita Ross, Diana Hutton and Dana

I've  
always  
been  
intrigued  
with  
glamour,  
fascinated  
by it.



Rita Ross



Monica Munro



# Piece

## *In search of glamour in Music City*

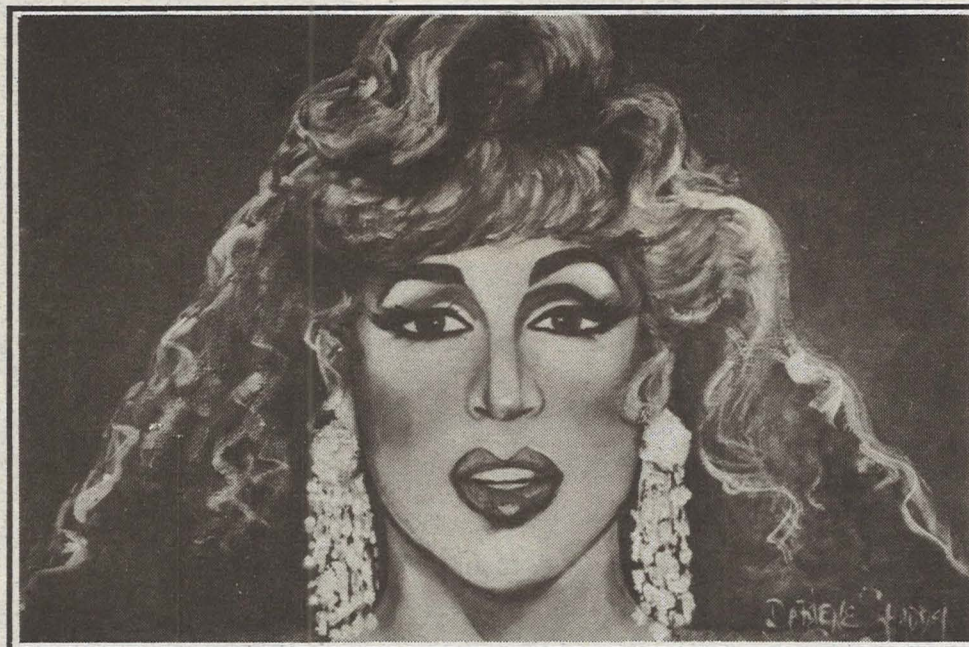
Alexander agreed to take part.

The result? "Queens of the City," a show of pageant-winning female impersonators, glamorous individual portraits that will be unveiled at the Warehouse Two show, along with a "grand finale" portrait of the five cast members.

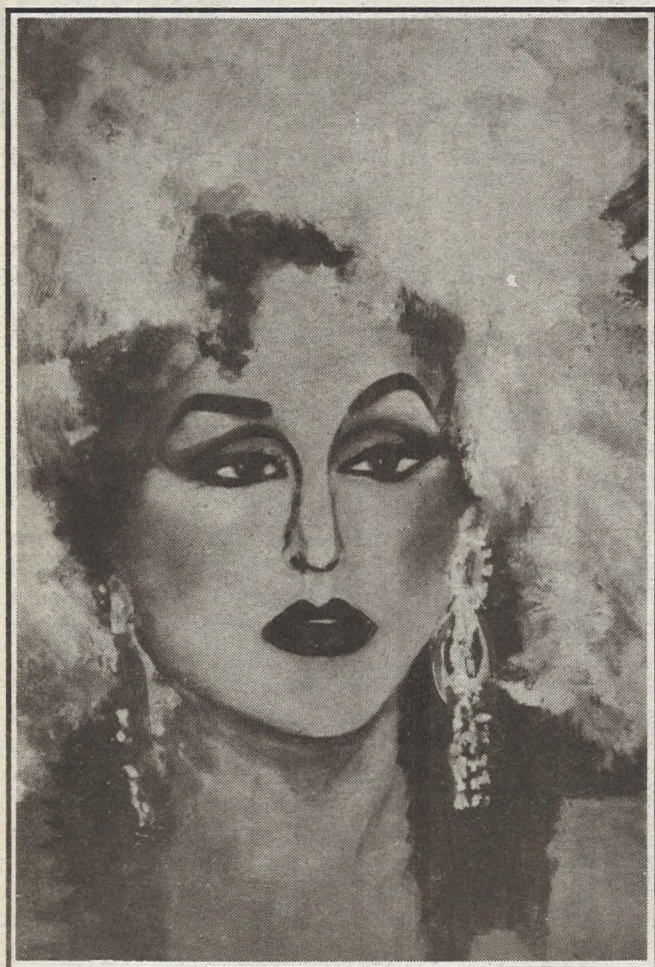
Shadden couldn't be more pleased with the project: "They were all so sweet. They really opened up to me and let me see their transformations taking place. It was

fascinating."

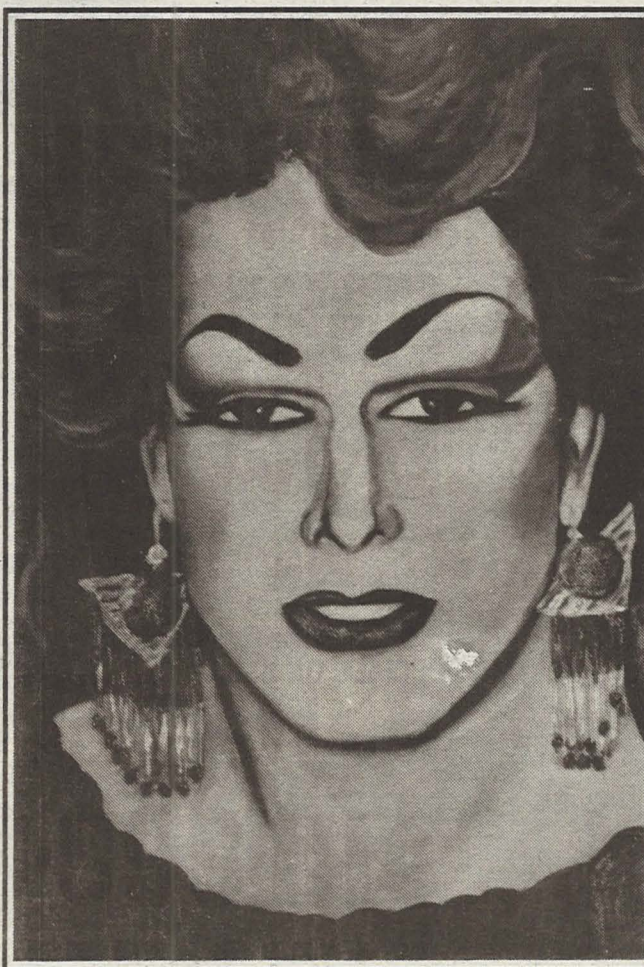
Although she's heterosexual and her five "glamour girls" are gay, Shadden said she was able to cross the imaginary barrier that sometimes exists between artist and subject, resulting in the stunning portraits. ✦



Bianca Paige



Diana Hutton



Dana Alexander



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# Out of the shadows

## ✦ The Shadow Box

by JEFF ELLIS  
Editor

Death and dying are not subjects easily discussed by most people, because dying somehow challenges our most closely-held beliefs and proves our mortality. When it's considered by a dramatist, all too often, the process of dying is treated with a heavy-handed sensibility, its highly personal truth hidden in a blanket of oblique words.

For the cast of Circle Players' upcoming production of Michael Cristofer's *THE SHADOW BOX* (which opens Friday, March 16 for a three weekend run at Nashville's Tennessee Per-

"It's not a depressing show — even though my character cries through half of the show — it's really a very uplifting show," Norman says.

Cast as Mark, the younger gay lover of a terminally ill man, Norman (heretofore known primarily for his comic roles) says the role is "emotionally draining" and "strikes close to home because I've had a number of friends die of AIDS in the past few years."

Norman says every part in Cristofer's play is important, "every role is tremendous" — "I would play any role in this play, even the women's roles, if I could" — but that the role of Mark is one he's wanted to play since he first read the work some years ago.



Starring in Circle Players' production of *THE SHADOW BOX* are (left to right) Rita Frizzell, J. Leon Miller and Mike Norman. — PHOTO BY KEN DALE THOMPSON

forming Arts Center's Johnson Theatre), working on a play that deals with the inevitability of death has meant much personal introspection and a growing realization that death is simply a part of life.

Cristofer's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, first produced on Broadway in 1977, chronicles the hopes, fears and successes of three terminally-ill patients as they live out the remainder of their lives at a hospice.

Because Cristofer never names the disease with which his three protagonists suffer, it is perhaps more relevant in 1990 — the age of AIDS — than when it was first written.

Producer James-Ben Stockton says: "This is a celebration of the human spirit."

In director Robert Kiefer's cast are Daniel Luther as Joe, J. Leon Miller as Brian and Janet Coscarelli as Felicity. Portraying the interviewer is L.B. Gaiters. In supporting roles are Debi Shinnars and Gabe Sanchez as Joe's wife and son; Rita Frizzell and Mike Norman as Brian's ex-wife Beverly and his lover Mark; and Elizabeth Daniel plays Felicity's daughter Agnes.

"This is just a remarkable show," Stockton says. "I cry at rehearsal every night. But this isn't really a sad show. There is an Indian saying that explains what crying means. If you cry on the outside of your eye, you're crying for joy. If you cry on the inside, you're crying for sadness. With this show, you will cry out of both sides of your eyes."

Norman thinks the play's real power lies in the ambiguity Cristofer created by not naming the characters' diseases.

For Rita Frizzell, cast in the flamboyant role of Beverly, the experience has been a catharsis, "a therapeutic experience."

"My own ex-husband is dying and I'm dedicating my performance to him," she explains. "We're still very close friends and last September I went to see him — I didn't know if it would be the last time I ever saw him or not — to celebrate the love we shared, the life we shared. My visit with him is much like Beverly's visit to Brian — it's not to mourn death, but to celebrate life."

"This play requires a lot from the actor. It takes everything you have to do this show. You go through all the emotional experiences," she says. "It's a very precious role to me. Some people see Beverly as a slut, but I see her as a very classy person who deals with death as best she can."

Playing Beverly, who's best described as big and brassy, Frizzell says presents more a challenge — and is certainly more fun: "It's only recently I've started playing roles like this and I now have a monitor inside my head that says, 'is this too big to be real?'"

Reservations for the Circle Players' production of *THE SHADOW BOX*, with shows Thursday through Sunday, March 16-April 1, may be made by calling Ticketmaster at (615) 741-2787. ✦





## The Chute Restaurant & Lounge

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# Congratulations.

The Chute is proud to be the home bar of The Conductors. We congratulate them as they celebrate their eighth anniversary, and we thank them for their loving support of Nashville's PWAs through The Conductors' PWA Fund. We welcome The Conductors and their out-of-town guests this weekend as they celebrate yet another year of fun and service to the community.



Sunday Night Dinner Special, Sunday, March 11  
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Education and Services  
(Clarksville CARES)  
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call Crisline (615) 552-INFO

Chattanooga Council on AIDS  
Resources,  
Education and Services  
(Chattanooga CARES)  
Box 8402, Chattanooga, TN  
37411  
call (615) 266-2422

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

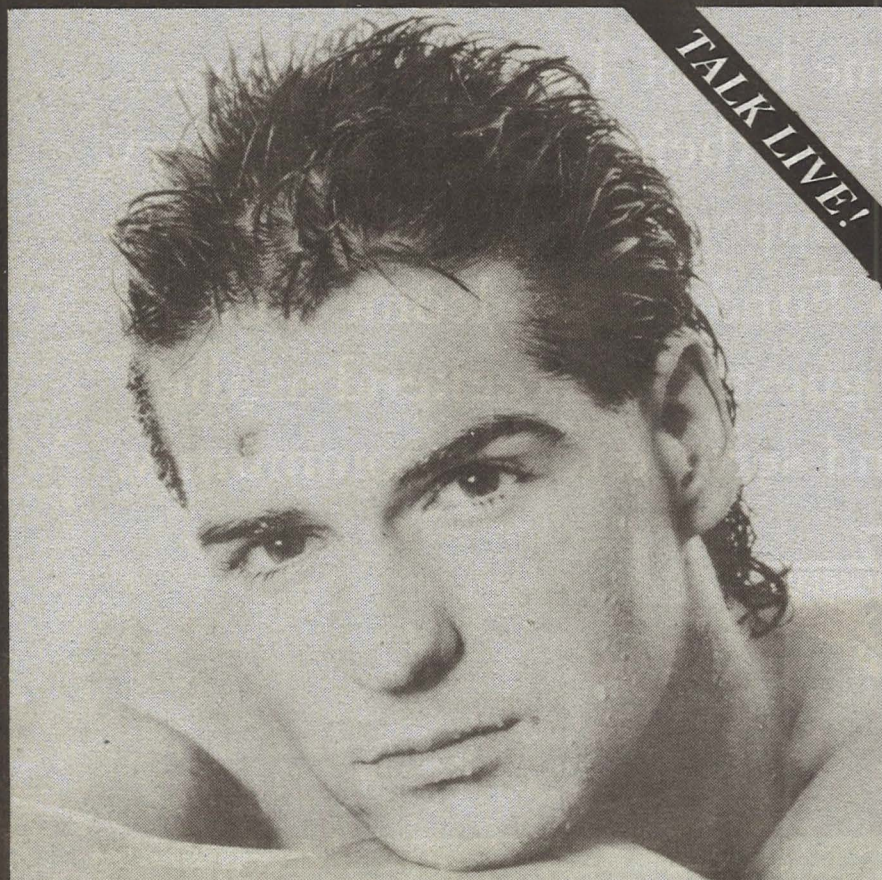
Aids to End AIDS Committee  
(ATEAC)  
Box 40389, Memphis, TN  
38174  
call (901) 458-AIDS  
24 hours call (901) 762-8401

Nashville Council on AIDS  
Resources,  
Education and Services  
(Nashville CARES)  
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37202  
call (615) 385-AIDS  
(615) 385-1510

Tri-Cities AIDS Project  
(TAP)  
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## + Announcements

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• **HELP WANTED:** Paid part-time editorial asst position filled, still need writers, photographers statewide. Reply Dare, (615) 327-Dare, (800) 544-Dare.

• Seeking employment part-time evenings. Dependable, caring, great references. Call Angela (615) 228-7318. Nashville.

• **POLITICAL? MOI?** You bet your sweet button! It's a Scream! has the best selection of gay, lesbian & choice buttons, bumperstickers & gifts in Tennessee. It's A Scream! 168 2nd Ave North, Nashville. (615) 244-7346.

• **KNOXVILLE AREA:** Vocalist seeks musicians to form gay rock band. Heavily influenced by The Smiths. Must be open-minded and daring. Call (615) 595-8686.

• **YOU LIKE 'EM! YOU REALLY LIKE 'EM!** Dare classifieds are such a big hit, we've decided to extend our **FREE PERSONALS** offer again. Send a special message. Meet new friends. 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 April 30, 1990. Don't forget to add \$5 for response drawers or bold caps. We reserve the right to edit or to refuse any ad. Sorry, phone numbers and street addresses cannot be used in Personals. Offer not good for announcements, sales, roommates, real estate or commercial classified ads.

• **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.

• **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 delivery area. Great part-time pay, perfect for students, 2nd job, etc. Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone (615) 327-Dare.

• **LONG HOURS. HARD WORK. LOW PAY.** Dare is accepting applications from writers in Chattanooga, Clarksville, Jackson, Knoxville, Memphis, Murfreesboro, Nashville, the Tri-cities and around Tennessee. Learn community-oriented journalism, and be one of the best. Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone (615) 327-Dare.

## + Real Estate

• **HUGE DECK ON CREEK** — 2 BR, 1 BA in West Meade duplex. Ceiling fans, washer / dryer, full basement. Pets OK. Lots of trees. 24-hr security \$475 / mth. Call (615) 860-2757 days.

• Room, furn., priv. Bath, non-smoker, \$200. Phone Jack (615) 227-3261 (leave msg). Nashville.

• 1 bedroom unfurn. apt, Inglewood area. \$325/mo. utilities furnished. (615) 226-7124.

• **PRIME SMALL OFC SPACE** for rent. 120sq ft near Nashville downtown/off West End. Carpet, track lights, utils. inc. \$100/mo. Great for counselor, artist, etc. Pyramid Light & Power, (615) 327-3273.

• For Rent: Spacious bungalow w/ lots of extras! Stained glass, private yard, 3BR, fireplaces, skylights, A/C, screened patio, carport, formal DR, draperies, closets, ice maker and more! \$600/mo. (615) 228-1702. Nashville.

## + Roommates

• **ROOMMATES HELP** Nashville. (615) 352-7715. Move NOW or share your place with a person of compatible lifestyle. Two can live better for less.

• **ROOMMATE WANTED:** open-minded female to share house in Sylvan Ark area of Nashville. Pref. Stable person. No pets. \$265/mo incl. util. Ref. req. Call (615) 385-3448.

## + Personals

• **PLEASE DON'T FORGET** to put the Dare DRAWER NUMBER on your responses to Personals.

• GWM, 40, 5'6", 140#, br/bl, attr., educ., masc. prof. sks monogamous, in-shape masc. life partner. Not into bars, drugs, smoking, excess alcohol. Photo/letter. Dare DRAWER 71

• A rose a month can only begin to suggest the thrill of watching you sleep, the contentment of lying in your arms, the warmth of your smile. Here's to thirty more years together. I still love you.

• GWM, 28, 5'8", 140lbs, br/gr, very attractive, clean-cut, sincere, healthy, student, tired of bars, smoke & loneliness, sks similar high-caliber guy for monogamous relationship. Do you exist? Photo please. Dare DRAWER 70.

• GLGWM, HIV+, 26 healthy, in shape. Sks same 22-33. Friends 1st. Sincere/discreet — must be independent. Outdoors / some sports. No hard drugs or alc. abuse. Enjoys living & being myself. No games. R U real? Dare DRAWER 69

• GWM, 38, Br/Br 5'11" sks straight acting buddy friend, neat, well groomed like myself fun active weekend drives. Any age. Dickson County. I enjoy drives in your area. Dare DRAWER 55

• GWM, 43, 6', 240 Br/bl, hairy, into reading, music, sitcoms, movies. Love to laugh and cry, sunsets, sunrises, rainstorms and rainbows. Warm evenings on a slow-moving train. Dare DRAWER 68

• GWM clean cut gdlkg high-caliber fun big educated prof. 29yo guy wanting relationship. 5'11" 160lbs ready for hot monogamous sex and fun times! Foto a must! Dare DRAWER 67

• GWM, 34, 5'10", 155 lbs, Br/Gr, straight appr. button-down/khaki-type professional. Not into gay scene. Enjoys movies, travel, music, some sports. Sks similar GWM 28-37 for friend / possible relationship. Dare DRAWER 66.

• Well, here we go. GM: 26, attractive, intelligent, strght-acting, smooth, enjoys gd conversation, music, dancing and sun. ISO knowledge, mature, sincere and gdlkg, passionate, clean-cut GM, prof, 23-30 with similar

interests for frndship into mong. relationship. No drugs/ games. Fot & fon. Nashville. Dare DRAWER 65

• GWF, 30-something, new to Knoxville. Where are you, belated Valentine? 35-45, gentle, affectionate, nature lover, animal lover, vegetarian, hopelessly romantic, I'm sick of waiting — are you on this planet? Dare DRAWER 64

• GWM, 29, 6' 175 lbs, tan, br/bl. Athletic type, lkng for same! TTU student lkng for other students in TN. Dare DRAWER 63.

• Sleazeila — the answer is yes. You pick the question.

• GWM, 48, 5'9", 155lbs, from the South, sks GWM 21 to 38 to live in Sacramento, CA (916) 923-9441.

• Dog's hind leg — I know that you love me — I know that you do — Love P. Willow Tree.

• Well, well, well, Kelly, what are YOU doing reading these? — P.R.T. (I know what you're up to.)

• GWF, 29, 5'9" Bl/Br, tired of bars, games. Enjoys quiet evening at home, bubble baths for 2, movies, the outdoors. Sks petite feminine lady 28-40 who enjoys the same. No drugs. Dare DRAWER 61

• GBF looking for very discreet GWF for friendship. Photo or phone number please. Dare DRAWER 60

• GWM, 26, 155 lbs, Br/Bl. Enjoys quiet evening at

home, watching movies, loves dancing. Sks GWM 27-35 for friendship & possible relationship who is stable in his career. Prefer will-built. Foto / fone? Dare DRAWER 62

• Dearest Phillip Cooper — I miss you terribly! I am well. I hope you are also. Are you still in Memphis? Please get back in touch with me. Oh, by the way, I am no longer dating Scott. Mahal Kita, Freda.

• GWM, mid 20s. Br/Br, enjoys movies, music, long walks, occas. bars, friendship, security, sincere people. No drugs, sks same for sincere lasting friendship, possibility relationship. Photo, phone. Dare DRAWER 59

• GWF, 29, mentally tired, emotionally lonesome. Into solitude, tenderness, classical. Out of bars, kink, patience. Doesn't any feminine woman in Nashville want to be treated gently by another one? Dare DRAWER 58

• Darlin' Shannon — I love you, you know I do. You're in my heart forever. — Your lover, Joseph.

• GWF — 26, new to this and looking for GWF 24-30 who's new to this also. You should be educated & feminine. I am new to the state, career-minded and enjoy the outdoors. I look forward to having fun in TN. Dare DRAWER 57

• GWM, 6', 170lbs, Bl/Br gd-lkng, honest. Great sense of humor. Truthful, independent, tired of the games. Lkng for same in Tennessee. Photo & letter will get an answer. Dare DRAWER 56

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| + <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd-class \$20 subscription \$.....   |  |                 |  |
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| <p>• All ad prices are for two consecutive weeks: \$10 for up to 100 characters, \$20 for up to 200 characters and so on.</p> <p>• Please print one character per box. A character is any letter, numeral, space or punctuation mark.</p> <p>• We reserve the right to edit ads, and to reject any ad. Sexually explicit or exploitative ads will not be accepted. No ad will be accepted without signature and advance payment in full. We assume no responsibility for advertisers' claims.</p> <p>• Response drawers are available. Responses will be mailed two weeks after the last appearance of the ad. To answer a drawer ad, write to:</p> <p>Dare Drawer # .....<br/>Box 40422<br/>Nashville, TN 37204-0422</p> <p>• Ads received by noon Tuesday will run the following Friday. Please enclose check or money order for total amount, payable to:</p> <p>Dare<br/>Box 40422<br/>Nashville, TN 37204-0422.</p> <p>• Questions? Phone (615) 327-Dare.</p> |  |                 |  |
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2 YEARS  
2 REMEMBER

## Dare's Second Anniversary

# Thanks for two great years.



**Dare**

Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly

## Onstage

### + Reverent and irreverent

*GODSPELL. By John Michael Tebelak. Music and new lyrics by Stephen Schwartz. Directed by Michael Bouson. Chaffin's Barn, Nashville. Through March 31.*

reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**  
Editor

With a book written by St. Matthew — with the able assistance of John Michael Tebelak — and the music of Stephen Schwartz, *GODSPELL* is an spirited blend of entertainment, featuring a top-notch cast in the Chaffin's Barn production.

Directed by Michael Bouson (of Avante Garage fame), the musical tells in colorful style the parables of the New Testament book of St. Matthew, effectively updating scripture with a contemporary flair that makes it all the more attractive to modern audiences.

Somehow it manages to relate religious teachings without being preachy, to remain reverent while being irreverent in its staging.

With a clever blend of humor and pathos, music and a little bit of madness, *GODSPELL* isn't the usual stuff of dinner theatre, but it succeeds superbly thanks to Bouson's splendid direction and thoroughly delightful cast.

Cast in the pivotal role of Jesus, Joe Correll is sweetly compassionate, ready with a quick smile and comforting in his authority. Correll's Jesus is a strong, forthright individual who is no one's patsy.

Bouson, himself, appears in the dual roles of John and Judas, and is perfectly chilling

during the denouement that occurs during the Last Supper.

Supporting Correll and Bouson are eight other performers who are uniformly entertaining: Katie Gladfelter, sultry and provocative singing "Turn Back O Man" and right on the money with evangelistic fervor in another scene; David Biddison, his voice sweet and plaintive, his acting funny; Warren Gore, somewhat overshadowed by the others, but still memorable; Susan Hall, her voice rich with emotion despite her lack of power; Brian Beach, truly electrifying (with the entire company) on "We Beseech Thee"; Valerie Green, her singing and comic timing superb, someone we'd love to see again; and the inimitable Su Hyatt, a major star just waiting to happen.

With the musical accompaniment of musical director Jamey Green on the piano, Rick Malkin on the drums and Joey Green on guitar, it's one of the best musicals of the season.

Frankly, I'd sit in the rain to see these people perform!

But to be quite honest, *GODSPELL* has never appealed to me as a show: I've always considered it too churchy for my tastes.

However, thanks to Bouson's imaginative staging that makes grand use of the Chaffin's Barn stage area (great set designed by Bouson and John Chaffin, with costumes by Dianne Chaffin) and the performances of a truly cohesive team of entertainers, it's a show that has much to recommend it. ♦

### Answers to the Dare 100th issue trivia quiz

#### Part One

1. U. S. Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.).
2. CATS.
3. Mid-South Press.
4. "Max and Mona" by Hank Williams.
5. Dan Martino.
6. Cordell Hull State Office Building.
7. Photographer/writer Carl Van Vechten.
8. Mother Teresa.
9. Lea Delaria and Kelley Edwards.
10. Tony St. Clair.
11. Kwik Sak.
12. Jaan Sturgis.
13. Alice Mitchell.
14. Jeffrey Levi.
15. 102 degrees.
16. Double Image.
17. Sandee Potter.
18. Atlanta, Georgia.
19. Sunday, August 7, 1988.
20. Alice Algood.
21. THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST.
22. New Orleans, Louisiana.
23. Gov. Michael Dukakis.
24. The Hyatt Regency.
25. Tuesday, October 11, 1988.
26. A Nashville man found murdered in his apartment.
27. George Armistead.
28. The Tennessee Sentencing Commission.
29. Daniel Webster.
30. Alan Hollinghurst.
31. Paducah.
32. Michael Dukakis.
33. Wim Wenders.
34. Dallas, Texas.
35. Sherre Boothman.
36. Alison Bechdel.
37. Nashville Coalition Against Pornography.
38. Professor I.B. Gittendowne.
39. John J. McNeill.
40. Abby Rubenfeld and Greg Fisher.
41. Judge Jack Hampton.
42. AS THE WORLD TURNS.
43. Karen Thompson.
44. David F. Greenberg.
45. Harold Dennison Jr.
46. Harvey Fierstein.
47. David Raybin.
48. Warehouse 28 in Nashville.
49. Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).
50. Louisiana.

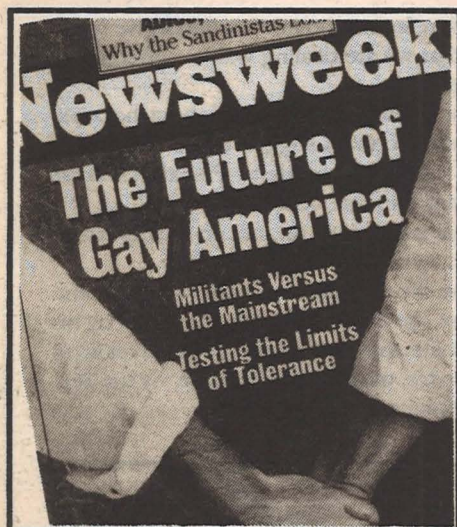
#### Part Two

1. Andy Rooney.
2. Ivy Young.
3. Abby Rubenfeld and Greg Fisher.
4. Charles W. Burson.
5. AIDS Response Knoxville (aRiK).
6. THE CHILDREN'S HOUR.
7. U.S. Rep. Harold Ford (D-Memphis).
8. Kathleen Turner, Michael Douglas and Danny DeVito.
9. Christ Episcopal Church, Chattanooga.
10. Gay Cable Network/Nashville.
11. 1291 Madison Avenue, Memphis.
12. John Boswell.
13. Tracy Chapman.
14. Massachusetts.
15. Miller Plaza, Chattanooga.
16. Director of NGLTF's Privacy Project.
17. November 1, 1989.
18. Organization for the Support of Gays and Lesbians (OSGL).
19. 100,000 people.
20. \$156,000 (\$86,000 in Nashville; \$70,000 in Memphis).
21. Zsa Zsa Gabor.
22. Rick Harrell, for the Actor's Playhouse production of *RENT*.
23. Black and White Men Together/Memphis.
24. Nashville.
25. Gerry Snudds and Barney Frank.
26. Belinda Mason of Owensboro, Kentucky.
27. Lari White.
28. Married and Gay Network (MAGNET).
29. U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Higgins.
30. Elizabeth Jolley.
31. Ned Ray McWherter.
32. A member of a local skinhead organization.
33. Urvashi Vaid.
34. Robert Harling.
35. AIDS Southern Kentucky (ASK).
36. Julie Brown of just say run!
37. Clayton Hartwig and Kendall Truitt.
38. Rita Underhill.
39. Russel Brown.
40. Promise.
41. BAY AREA REPORTER.
42. Cris Williamson and Teresa Trull.
43. Larry Kramer.
44. Gay and Lesbian Law Students Association (GALLSA).
45. \$14,000.
46. The Nazi persecution of homosexuals.
47. Judy Grahn.
48. John Calvin Eades.
49. Minnie Bruce Pratt.
50. Neil Miller.



# Loose lips

## + Everybody's talking...



"At the end of the '60s, most gays thought of themselves as outsiders. I don't think that gays ever thought they could ever influence that system, or be a power within it."

— John D'Emilio, history professor at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, in *NEWSWEEK*'s cover story about "The Future of Gay America."

"Historically, radical feminism portrayed pornography as exploitative. Now we're saying it can be beautiful."

— Laura Thomas, 23, of San Francisco, to *NEWSWEEK*.

"My view is that you need to use all the tactics available, even when you know that some of the things you do will antagonize and even repel potential supporters."

— National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director Urvashi Vaid, commenting on the actions of ACT UP.

"13. Andy raps with new AIDS activist Ronald Reagan:

"Sorry about the last eight years."

"It happens, sir."

— From *Sunday's DOONESBURY* installment, in which cartoonist Gary Trudeau presented his tongue-in-cheek "A Doonesbury Planner" of schedule spring comic strip releases.

"We were ex-homosexuals at that time, or at least we thought we were. It sort of surprised us when we fell in love."

— Michael Busse, a former client of a therapy program that claims to cure homosexuality, telling the *LOS ANGELES TIMES* how he and another client became lovers. Apparently the therapy didn't take.

"Because when other people write it they always get it wrong."

— Connie Filippello, publicist for George Michael, explaining why the 27-year-old singer has penned his life story, titled *GEORGE MICHAEL: THE AUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY*, set for September release, about the same time as the follow-up to his *FAITH* album.

Portion of THIRTYSOMETHING's advertising that was pulled from an episode last fall that

show two homosexuals in bed: 3/5."

— From "Harper's Index," a compendium of facts and figures found in the April issue of *HARPER's* magazine.

"Rock Hudson wasn't Haitian."

— Sign carried by a Haitian expatriate during a protest in Miami. The protest focused on a recent ban on Haitian blood by Florida blood banks, which cited the prevalence of HIV among Haitians among reasons for imposing the ban.

"This guy plays well-known faggot Rock Hudson in a show guaranteed to offend normal sensibilities. It's on WRTV Monday evening."

— Cutline beneath a picture of actor Thomas Ian Griffith, who played Rock Hudson in a TV movie, that appeared in the *MARTINSVILLE (Ind.) DAILY REPORTER*. The publisher said the staffer who wrote the cutline "did not mean it as a slam against homosexuals."

"There are many motives behind the 'hate crimes' movement."

"One motive is to bolster the big lie that the United States is *Amerika*, i.e., a nation where fascism and white racism are rampant."

"A second is to give liberals, being battered from pillar to post for being soft on crime, a way to posture as anti-crime warriors."

"A third propellant is the homosexual lobby, which sees the bill as first step in a progression that ends with homosexuals elevated to the status of victimized minority and entitled to special protection and privilege."

— Syndicated columnist Patrick Buchanan, writing on recently adopted hate crimes legislation.

"What Otto and Julius Streicher were to German Jews in the 1930s, Hugh Hefner, Bob Guccione and Al Goldstein are to American women in the 1990s."

"The degradation of women through exploitation, rape and brutality, these are the hate crimes liberals dance around because the kings of pornography, hard and soft, who promote them in film and fashion, are all good, card-carrying members of the ACLU."

— Buchanan, again.

"If you're smart and rich you can always buy pretty."

— Comic Sandra Bernhard, when asked which she'd rather be.

"What do I do to defend myself? Do I say I am not a racist? That sound like, 'I am not a crook.'"

"I'd be known for the rest of my life as a racist bigot and as someone who made life a little more difficult for homosexuals. I felt terrible about that, and I've learned a lot."

— Andy Rooney, in his return engagement on 60 MINUTES, remarking on his suspension for allegedly racist and homophobic remarks he made to a reporter from *THE ADVOCATE*.

©1990 Dare Features Syndicate

Thanks, Tennessee, for two great years!

In the last twenty-four months, *Dare* has grown from an eight-page paper with only 600 readers in one city into the twenty pages you and about 8100 other Tennesseans will read this week.

Somewhere in Tennessee, someone reads a copy of *Dare* on the average of once every minute and fifteen seconds — a total of almost 550,000 times over the last two years.

Our staff has mushroomed from one full-time and two part-time volunteers working on a kitchen table to three full-time and 22 part-time staffers and contributors based in our new 2000-square-foot offices, complete with computerized typesetting and graphics and a new statewide toll free telephone service, just blocks from the Tennessee State Capitol.

Ad revenue (from more than 200 different advertisers so far) has climbed by more than 700%.

And we now distribute *Dare* through more than 50 locations statewide, from Metropolitan Community Church in Johnson City, to The Black and the Read in Knoxville, to Alan Gold's in Chattanooga, to Davis-Kidd Booksellers in Nashville, to The Office in Clarksville, to Squash Blossom Natural Foods in Memphis.

What that means to our readers and advertisers is that we now have the resources we need to consistently deliver the high quality of writing, production and readership Tennessee's lesbian and gay community deserves.

We'd like to thank everyone who has made *Dare* possible — our readers, our advertisers, and, of course, our fine staff and contributors.

At the same time, we'd like to pledge ourselves to continue to improve *Dare* as we grow into our next year, and our next, and our next...

We'll continue to bring you such features as free statewide personals, a complete statewide calendar of events, and the most in-depth coverage of Tennessee and national lesbian and gay community news around.

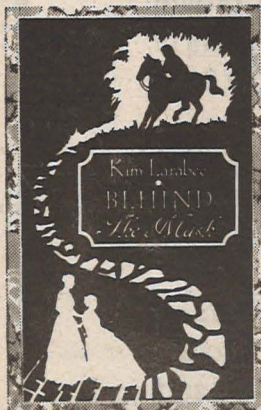
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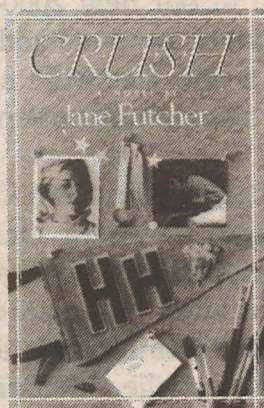
**BEHIND THE MASK**, by Kim Larabee, \$7.00. Maddie Elverton is a fashionable member of English society in the early 19th century who leads a double life as a highway robber, until her secret life and her love for another woman are threatened by a young officer of the law.

**TESTIMONIES**, edited by Sarah Holmes, \$8.00. In this new collection of coming

out stories, twenty-two women of widely varying backgrounds and ages give accounts of their journeys toward self-discovery.

"These are stories with moments of truth in them. They are clear and compelling." — *Seattle Gay News*

**CRUSH**, by Jane Fitcher, \$7.00. It wasn't easy fitting in at an exclusive girls' school like Huntington Hill. But in her senior year, Jinx



finally felt as if she belonged. Lexie — beautiful, popular Lexie — wanted her for a friend. Jinx knew she had a big crush on Lexie, and she knew she had to do something to make it go away. But Lexie had other plans. And Lexie always got her way.

"A wonderful high-school lesbian romance. I wish I had it to read in high school." — Carol Seajay, in *Feminist Bookstore News*

**A MISTRESS MODERATELY FAIR**, by Katherine Sturtevant, \$9.00. Shakespearean England provides the setting for this vivid story of two women — one a playwright, the other an actress — who fall in love. Margaret Featherstone and Amy Dudley romp through a London peopled by nameless thousands and the titled few in a historical romance that is entertaining



and best researched you'll ever read.

"The reader is thoroughly charmed by Sturtevant's elegant prose and carefully conceived characters." — *Publishers Weekly*

**MACHO SLUTS**, by Pat Califia, \$9.00. Pat Califia, the prolific lesbian author, has put together a stunning collection of her best erotic short fiction. She explores sexual fantasy and adventure in previously taboo territory — a lesbian's encounter with gay cops, incest, as well as various S/M and "vanilla" scenes.

"Intriguing, erotic, exhilarating and unnerving. Beautifully crafted." — *Bay Area Reporter*

**DEAD HEAT**, by Willyce Kim, \$7.00. Willyce Kim's *Dancer Dawkins and the California Kid* delighted readers with a family of far-out characters. In *Dead Heat*, they meet again for a new adventure. While Dancer is trying to recover from her breakup with Jessica, the Kid has fallen for a gangster's girlfriend. Things get sticky when horse racing and a kidnapped Hungarian Vizsla enter the picture, and the conclusion to the story is a day at the races you'll never forget.



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## Pages

### ✦ Talking about the afterlife

**AFTERLIFE**. By Paul Monette. New York: Crown Publishers, Inc. 1990. 278 pages. Hardcover \$19.95.

reviewed by JOANN MILOWITZ  
*Special to Dare*

Thomas Mann insisted that his novels ought to be read at least twice.

That rule fits **AFTERLIFE**, which has a crafty title and is a sequel to **BORROWED TIME**.

As a novel **AFTERLIFE** lacks some of the devastating intensity of what can be designated as Part One.

Novelists, as Paul Monette well knows, must kowtow to the prejudices of the publisher or remain unpublished. In order to fulfill this duty, detailed descriptions of sex scenes are given.

Of course, sex is a language in its own right, like music, and cannot be reduced to words. The unsayable cannot be said.

On first reading some readers will toss this novel aside as repulsive muck. If so, they will be mistaken.

This is a well-constructed novel. Take the relationship between Steven and Mark which is so skillfully worked out that the reader is suddenly surprised to find Mark there.

That is what **AFTERLIFE** is really about, not about finding a fleeting paradise via penis and pizza. At the end it stops abruptly because what happens is unsayable.

What does happen is the "afterlife" — a recovery from the loss of the first lover, the gradual realization that life goes on and the continuation of that life with someone else. It is not a matter of false loyalty or false grief.

Among the misguided notions we all have to struggle against is the one that regards dying young as a crime. That is a modern perversion.

Jesus (mentioned several times) and Alexander the Great died at 33. Whereas **BORROWED TIME**, for all its "shattering eloquence," ends in despair, **AFTERLIFE** is a book of hope.

The quality of love is not measured by the quantity of time available.

Margaret, who holds the show together and who nurses the dying Korean Ray Lee, gives us two wise paradigms: "Dying makes people grow up sometimes" and "I'd take a year in love," expanded in "Maybe I'd be selfish and take the first year first. Then see about later later."

Incidentally, she is straight.

The absurd division of humanity into "hets", "bis" and gays/lesbians is not only simplistic, but wrong and wrong-headed.

Remember the time when the pundits used to proclaim, daringly, that two percent of the population are inverters?

The AIDS revolution has accelerated history amazingly. The leap between **BORROWED TIME** and **AFTERLIFE** shows that clearly.

The reader might detect several distractions in this novel — a certain cynicism that outs from time to time. Monette himself speaks of "California bullshit."

That says it perfectly.

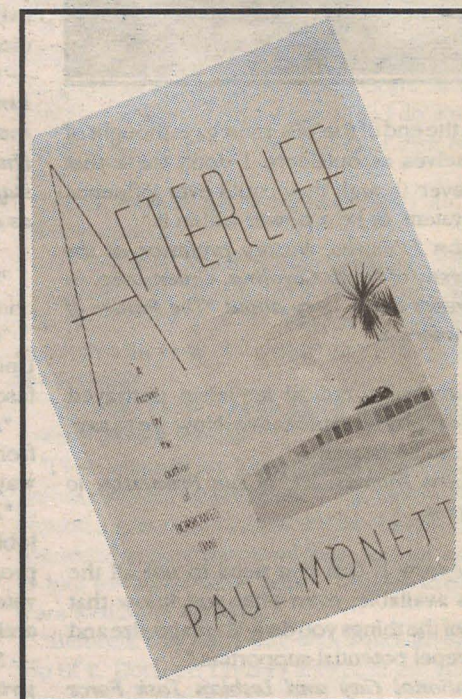
Some might be troubled by the obsession with food.

The references to Ancient Egypt give us the cue that we are dealing with Ka-offerings to the gods.

The notion of Ka runs throughout the book, so much so that I suggest that one ought to read Chapter 5 in Henri Frankfort's book **KINGSHIP AND THE GODS**.

This is a serious tip, not an attempt to be witty.

The life-is-a-journey motif is prominent. Sonny, the beautiful Greek, is assured by his channeler that he is not gay. So he leaves in his Mercedes, travelling to paradise via the Second Cataract.



Life has its humor, we cannot escape it.

Most distressing is the cramped fanaticism of Dell who shoots the lady preacher á la California, Mother Evangeline who campaigns against the gay community and proclaims the lie that Jesus would not cure AIDS patients.

(The meaningful question for us is whether he does.)

The characters are conversi (secular meaning): Steven, Mark and Sonny. Not Dell, the man of violence who cannot accept himself. Up to a point they are running away from themselves — the false journey.

Then they become (the bitter, hard way) conversi and start the true journey towards and beyond themselves.

The kindness and patience among all the characters shows how the AIDS revolution enables them to transcend themselves.

Fear of dying leads to despair which manifests itself in cynicism and profanity and "meaningless sex."

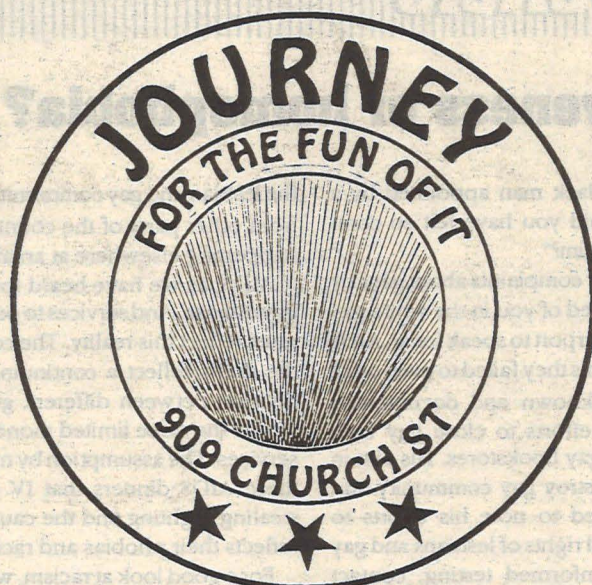
But at the end Steven and Mark have found themselves and, after all the maze of muck, they are home and dry in the 'afterlife.'

This novel is a therapeutic allegory and eschatological in the sense.

As Tennyson says: "Men may rise on stepping-stones of their dead selves to higher things."

That is what **AFTERLIFE** is about. ✦





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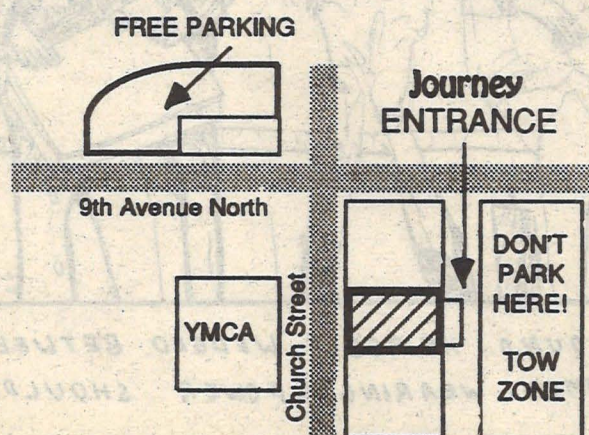
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Gaybriefs

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

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

March 16, 1990 ♦ Volume 3, Number 11

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## ♦ De-gaying AIDS: Inclusiveness or homophobia?

by JIM ROCHE  
Contributing Writer

SITTING AT A TABLE in the recreation center at Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in New York, I overheard comments about recent thefts. A letter from the center's staff sent to all GMHC clients warned of thefts of jackets, coats and money from the center. A number of gay clients expressed their concern and ideas on what's happening, "They've ruined it, like they have elsewhere."

"They" are the increasing number of IV drug users who make use of all of the city's HIV-related services, including free dinners served for PWAs every day at sites throughout the city. At all the free dinners, a slow but progressive change can be seen. Once made up of almost totally gay men, they now include IV drug users, women, families and homeless people. In the past, gay men described these meals as the high point of their week, "a place you could go to be with friends, peers, be with people like you...if you were missing for two weeks, people asked where you were and called."

Now I hear, "staff at one dinner actually frisk people." At other dinners, if someone is missing or in the hospital, the staff won't share client's names, phone numbers or personal information with concerned friends. What was once a community of gay men helping other gay men in a crisis has become institutionalized, depersonalized and to some, dangerous.

Originally, programs like GMHC were set up to empower people with AIDS. Now their very institutional structure seems to have as its aim control, crowd control, behavioral control and, some would say, mind control. The tenor of social functions has changed, the mission of many programs once seen as almost exclusively serving the gay community have begun to open up and become more inclusive, but not necessarily to everyone's liking.

At first, when AIDS really seemed to be a gay disease, almost every program established to provide leadership and services in this crisis was started by and for PWAs, gay men and lesbians. But soon it became apparent that this "gay-centric" view of AIDS was in conflict with the reality that HIV had become a major problem of people of color, IV drug users, women and the poor. It is a problem of all oppressed people across the social, political and economic spectrum.

Inclusiveness became the name of the game. "AIDS IS NOT A GAY DISEASE" has become the new coalition's slogan. This effort to be inclusive and set few limits of who could join the fight against AIDS as long as they wanted to defeat the disease provided opportunity for homophobia to grow right in our own backyard.

In a recent GMHC orchestrated letter to the editor in New York's OUTWEEK magazine, the agency's "people of color" rebuked the "gay white community" for its insensitivity to issues of race in their concern about the controversial appointment of Dr. Myers as health commissioner. In their letter they questioned,

"Were he not a black man appointed by a black mayor, would you have felt so compelled to criticize him?"

They ended their complaints about gays by saying they are "tired of you in the white gay community who purport to speak for an AIDS agenda." In all of this they failed to even once note Myers' well-known and documented homophobia, his efforts to close gay bath houses, bars and gay bookstores. His aim in Indiana was to destroy gay community and culture. They failed to note his efforts to undermine the civil rights of lesbians and gay men through uninformed testing, contact tracing and notification or his policy which allows anyone to accuse an HIV positive person of unsafe sex without being informed of who their accuser is, and then the HIV positive person can be locked up! How can employees of GMHC (the G used to stand for GAY by the way, but the word is seldom used now in an effort to be inclusive) ignore the uproar heard from almost every human rights organization in Myers' home state?

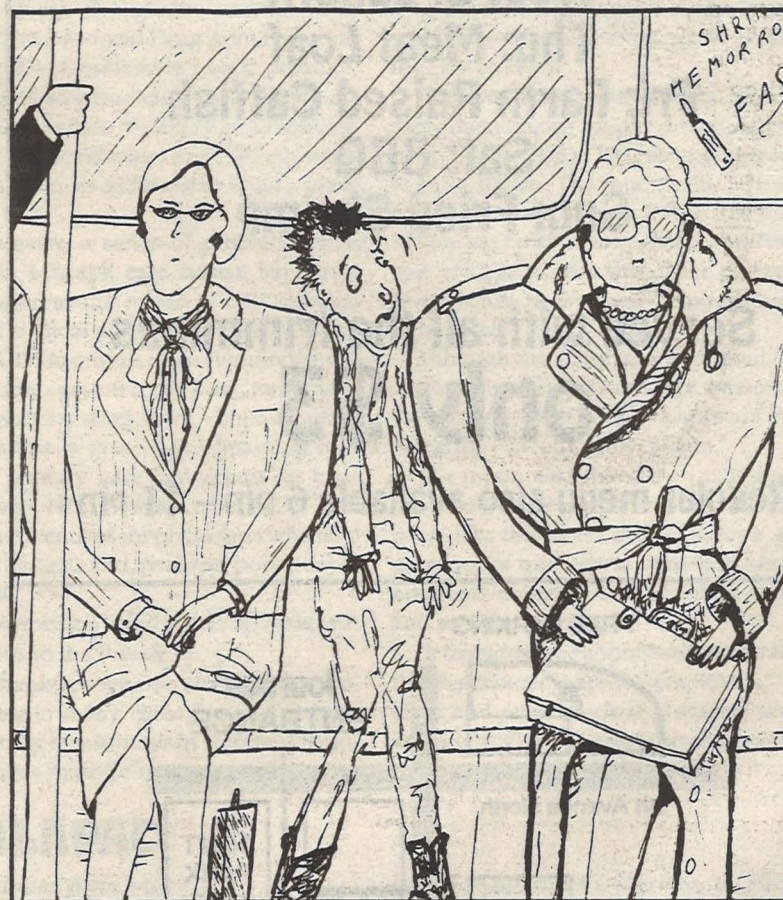
THEY CAN IGNORE IT because somehow, even on the staff of a "gay" organization, homophobia has been okayed in the name of inclusiveness. In New York the mumbling at dinner tables is now front page news in most of the gay press. It's bitter, nasty and ripping

the lesbian and gay community apart. Reports from other parts of the country point to this happening elsewhere at an alarming rate.

AIDS, as we have heard for years, is not a gay disease. And services to people with AIDS must reflect this reality. The comments about the thefts reflect a continuing and growing division between different groups trying to vie for the same limited money, benefits and services. The assumption by many gay men at these AIDS dinners that IV drug users are stealing, fighting and the cause of problems reflects their phobias and racism.

For a good look at racism, we don't need to leave our community. That's plain and simple. The divisions that these situations reflect have to be overcome if we are not to be overwhelmed by our own bigotry. But while AIDS isn't a gay disease, let's not forget that it is a disease particular to gays and that one of its most damaging effects is that it works in concert with homophobic bigotry. A major reason AIDS funding and education programs were so slow in coming into being was homophobia and homohatred. Some in leadership wanted us dead, and still do. That homohatred has to be dealt with while we deal with AIDS, but now that our coalition is inclusive, fighting this bigotry seems to have lost its urgency. ♦

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KERRY FOUND HERSELF WEDGED BETWEEN  
TWO WOMEN WEARING POWER SHOULDERS.

— CARTOON BY ANDREA NATALIE



# Definitions

## + Wake up, Petunia!

by **NANCY LYN DEFINE**  
Contributing Writer

LOOK, PETUNIA, *please* stop bothering the rest of us with your sorry ass, attitudinal self. Yeah, we *know* who you think *you* are. And we know who you think *we* are. But to tell you the truth, we don't care. Oh sure. When you strut your stuff, when you sashay past us up to the bar, we're watching you. But *not* the way the think. We're *not* admiring your adorable buns. Actually, we're hoping you'll fall flat on your incredibly arrogant face. It isn't that we mind your posturing and posing. But save us the pomposity. Please. Contrary to what you might think, the rest of us manage to get along pretty well. So why don't you put the attitude on hold for a while, dearie?

By the way, that gentleman over there, the one you always refer to as a "leftover old queen"? You know. The one you *swear* once dropped his handkerchief by you? Remember how you imitated him last week? How successfully you lipped and lisped? Remember how you absolutely screamed (in a loud falsetto) "Who *was* that? Do you know him? No. *don't* turn around. Go over there. Pretend you're looking for your drink or something. How's my hair? I can't believe I wore these pants. I look *sofat* in them!" Well, that "queen" is more of a man than you'll ever be. And he's got something *you'll* never have. Guts. In his day, gay life was built on character. Now it's merely based on atmosphere. Yeah, you sure gave a hell of a performance. Almost as if you were made for the part. I think we all know how you'll be acting in a few years. So why don't you cut him a little slack? Maybe some bimbo will do the same for you some day.

While I'm at it, could you *try* to refrain from openly making fun of another person while I'm standing anywhere near you? You're embarrassing me. Besides, it's usually someone I like. You'd probably like them, too, if you could somehow manage to stop judging the whole world by your rather limited standards. And laughter at the expense of others always comes back to haunt you.

As pathetic as you obviously think *we* are, how big do you think you'd go over in a sports

bar? You know, those places where you suddenly start acting like Scarlett O'Hara?

You see, we're all here because here we can be ourselves. We can let our hair down, so to speak. Mostly, we're here because we share a common need to be together.

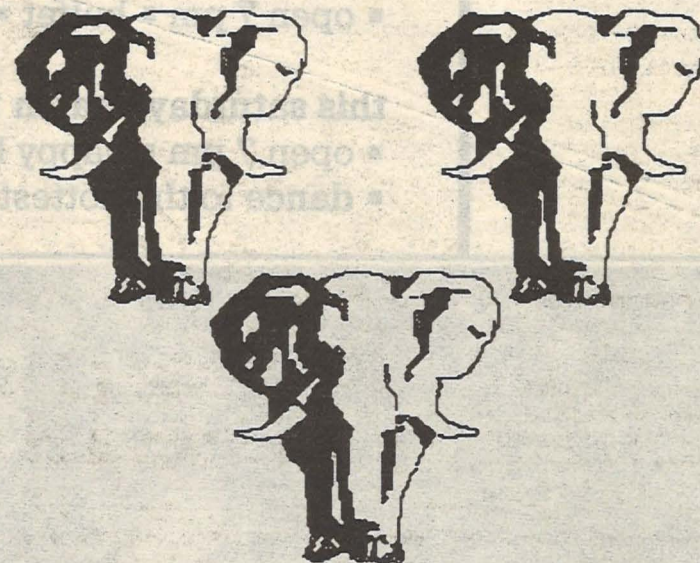
So, come on. Give us a break, and give yourself a break. And *please* try to remember that every one of us sneaks that last second look in the mirror on our way out the bathroom door. We ALL stand there with our 'bad ass' selves, smugly secure in the knowledge that *we* are just a l-i-t-t-l-e b-i-t b-e-t-t-e-r than everyone else, including our friends. And if it weren't for that tidy little secret, we probably wouldn't keep coming back week after week.

And before you even think it, yes, there is more than a bit of the "big girlie" in all of us. And yes, we *all* complain that there's *never* anyone new here. Or that this place is beat. Or that there's just nobody in this town. So, come on. Get a life. There's really no need to be a Roseanne Barr about it.

ONE MORE THING. Please stop complaining about all the "dykes" or "faggots" in the place. Try to look at it from the other side. While they're annoying you by their mere presence, you're annoying them. Actually, you're annoying most of us. A lot.

Contrary to your incredibly vain opinion, Lord Byron, there *have* been other men with classic features. And other boys who were every bit as pretty. So if you think someone's too fat, or *her* hair is too gray, or *his* pants are just *too* tight for words, then, don't use any. Please. Or use them standing someplace else. Like in the other room.

I guess, ultimately, we all provide the fodder for each other. Which is fine. Probably even the way it should be. But life has a way of pulling us up short. And it *really* doesn't need your help. So, the next time you're tying on the old ascot, practicing the slight but repeated motion of tossing your golden locks or lamenting the deplorable number of *real* women left in the world, remember that a bar is supposed to be a place to have a good time. If we want to subject ourselves to a couple of hours of self abasement, we'll stop by the neighborhood church. Or run for public office. ♦

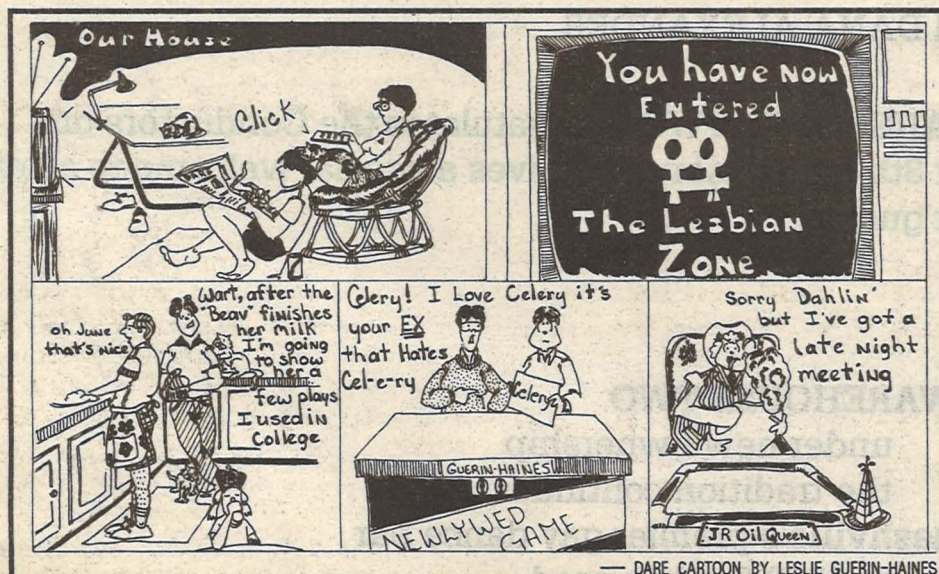


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