

Dare

Volume 3, Number 12

Tennessee's Lesbian & Gay Newsweekly

March 23, 1990

No funds available

Future dicey for Lentz T-cell count program

by JACKI MOSS
Staff Writer

People in Nashville who depend on the Lentz Public Health Center for their periodic T-cell counts, may have a hard time getting those counts if funds for the program are not donated by individuals and companies.

According to Gary Knight, a private citizen trying to raise money for the program, there is currently no local, state or federal funding for Lentz's T-cell counts.

"They are doing T-cell counts right now that are being paid for by donations. At one point, Vanderbilt was doing T-cell counts but they had budget restraints that made it impossible for them to fund them any longer. Then there was no funding in the new Metro Health Department budget for them, so now the program is out of money," said Knight.

"This places a lot of people between a rock and a hard place. People need T-cell counts need to know where they stand and how to adjust medications and when to
◆ continued on page 4



Since September, 1988, Metropolitan Nashville police have investigated four gay-related murders in the state's capital city. Police composite drawings of suspects in three of the cases were made available to the media soon after the investigations began, but no arrests have been made in any of the cases. — DARE STAFF GRAPHICS

HRCF to give \$500,000

Lesbian/gay PAC expects to play major role in 1990 congressional elections

from STAFF REPORTS

The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the nation's largest lesbian and gay political action committee announced earlier this week that it expects to contribute half a million dollars to candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives for the 1990 campaign season.

"Our ability to make significant contributions to candidates helps maximize the influence of lesbian and gay Americans in key congressional races all around the country," said Tim McFeeley, executive director of HRCF. "We will fight for our health and our rights by electing our friends and defeating our enemies."

The most current figures available indicate that HRCF has contributed \$121,000 thus far to some 46 candidates and incumbents and to five other PACS across the country.

Significant contributions have gone to Senator Paul Simon (D-Ill.), \$5,000; Rep. Sid Yates (D-Ill.), \$5,000; Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), \$5,000; Rep. John Miller (R-Wash.), \$2,500; and Oregon Democratic challenger Mike Kopetski, \$2,500.

PACs are regulated by the Federal

Election Commission and are prohibited from contributing more than \$5,000 to one candidate per election. Thus, PACs are allowed to give a maximum of \$10,000 to candidates who must run in both primary and general elections.

"Lesbian and gay Americans are committed to making a difference through the electoral process. Their generosity has allowed the Campaign Fund to make strategic, early contributions for the 1990 elections," McFeeley said.

"We have gone a long way in countering the pernicious influence of our extreme right-wing opponents. On Capitol Hill, the lesbian and gay community has become a force to be reckoned with," McFeeley added.

Along with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), which held its spring board meetings in Nashville last weekend, HRCF provides a lobbying presence on Capitol Hill for lesbians and gay men.

HRCF is ranked as the ninth largest non-connected PAC in the country and, in 1988, contributed some \$400,000 to the congressional campaigns of both Democratic and Republican candidates from around the United States. ◆

Unsolved murders

Overstreet one of 4 killed since '88

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

While Metropolitan Nashville police search for clues in the brutal February 26 slaying of 21-year-old Aaron Overstreet, lesbian and gay residents of Tennessee's capital city are wondering if his murder is part of an increasingly frightening pattern.

Within the past two years, police have investigated the murders of four gay men, none of which have resulted in the arrest of any suspects.

Murder Squad detective Mike Smith told *Dare* Wednesday that police still have no suspects in the February slaying of Overstreet.

According to police reports, Overstreet was found face down in Percy Priest Lake by a vacationing Kroger employee in the early morning hours of February 26. The Davidson County medical examiner's office said that Overstreet died of gunshot wounds to the head and stab wounds to the chest.

"He had been dead for more than 24 hours and we're not sure how long he was in the water before he was discovered," said Gretel Harlan, assistant medical examiner.

Overstreet's body had been

dumped into Percy Priest Lake near the Bell Road boat launch, just off Old Hickory Boulevard. Authorities are still uncertain if Overstreet was murdered at the boat dock, or was killed elsewhere and brought to the boat dock by his assailant, Smith said.

Media reports of Overstreet's grisly death have caused concern among many Nashvillians, including a man — who asked that his name not be used — who lives near Priest Lake and who himself was the victim of an attack last December 26.

"When I read in *Dare* about Aaron Overstreet, it really scared me," the man said. "Not just because they found his body near my house, but because I was attacked in my own home the day after Christmas."

According to the man, on December 26 he was telephoned by an individual whom he had met several weeks earlier at the Jungle, a bar located at 306 Fourth Avenue, South. The man claims that his caller, who identified himself as "Stefan," said he was back in Nashville and wondered if the man could pick him up at the Greyhound bus station.

The man picked up "Stefan" and brought him back to his home on
◆ Continued on page 4

2

Dare's
Second
Anniversary

2 years
2 remember

Two years ago...

◆ Nearly 100 people gathered at Nashville's Legislative Plaza Saturday, March 25, 1988, for a candlelight vigil memorializing the more than 150 Tennesseans who have died from AIDS.

◆ Donna Lee Marshall, Grizabella in the national touring company of the hit Broadway musical, CATS, teamed with other cast members for CATS WHO CARE, a benefit for Nashville CARES at Warehouse 28 on April 1.

inside Dare

Battle Scars



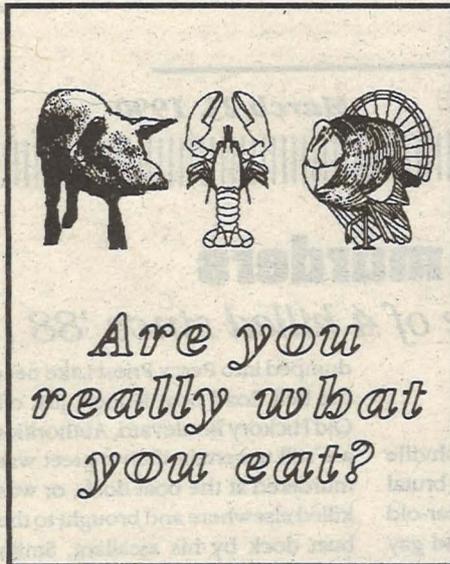
◆ **Playing around:**
Den-Nickolas Smith's 'Battle Scars' premieres, Onstage, page 8.

◆ **In the 'Steel' of the night:**
Jamie Lee Curtis in one good looking new movie, Persistence of vision, page 7.

◆ **In the mailbag:**
Do we get letters or what? Box 40422, page 15.

Mark your calendar

+ Big events



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. Opening ceremonies, 1pm. Games begin at Whitfield Park, Nashville, 1:30pm. Cookout following games at The Chute, 2535 Franklin Rd, Nashville, 5pm. Mr. & Ms. MCSA Pageant fundraiser, Warehouse Two, 2529 Franklin Rd, Nashville. 10:00pm.

Monday, April 2

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

+ We goofed

- Last week's advertisement for The Chute (Vol. 3, No. 11, page 11) inadvertently listed the previous week's dinner special rather than the current one.

- Last week's Loose Lips (Vol. 3, No. 11, page 15) erroneously quoted professor and author John D'Emilio. The sentence should have read, "I don't think that gays ever thought they could ever influence that system, or be a power within it."

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

+ 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.

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. 7:30 pm.

Saturdays

- Incest Survivors Anonymous** Open meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd. 5:30pm.
- Community Dinner** Metropolitan Community Church, all you can eat. 7:30pm. \$5. Info (615) 320-0288.
- GCN** Viacom cable channel 35. 8pm.

Sundays

- Metropolitan Community Church** Worship services, 11am and 7pm. Info (615) 320-0288.
- Women's Chorus** At Bethlehem Center, 1417 Charlotte. 4-6pm. Info (615) 353-1336.
- Incest Survivors Anonymous** Closed meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd. 6pm.

Tri-Cities

Tuesdays

- LETSA** 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.

+ Free publicity!

We'll list your nonprofit event free in our calendar. Phone (615) 327-Dare or toll-free (800) 544-Dare, or write to *Dare*, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422. Please include time, location, cost, sponsor, and a contact person's name with address and/or phone number for verification. Deadline is noon Monday for publication next Friday.

Local Color

compiled by **CURTIS BALLS**
Staff Writer

Memphis

'Heart Strings' named Tsarus' 'Man of the Year'

HEART STRINGS: MEMPHIS was named recipient of the Tsarus Man of the Year award at the club's 1990 banquet. Co-chairs Rebecca Locke and Allen Cook were on hand to accept the award.

"Though we tried to involve the mainstream community, make no mistake about it, this was a gay event," Cook told the audience.

"I wouldn't trade the experience of HEART STRINGS for anything in the world. We are thinking of where we want to hang the plaque, we think it should be at [the Memphis Gay and Lesbian] Community Center," Locke said. ✦

Nashville

MCSA steps up to bat with opening day events

Music City Sports Association will kick off the new softball season with a full day of festivities April 1, and a full night of softball pageantry — the First Mr. and Miss MCSA Pageant.

Ceremonies get under way at Whitfield Park at 1 p.m. with opening remarks, team introductions and the first pitch, thrown by Nashville attorney Abby Rubinfeld, co-chair of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) at 1:30 p.m.

The teams participating are: Colette's CC Shooters, The Chute's Nashville Numbers, 5 Points Depot Stars, Juanita's Zippers, Warehouse Two Warriors and Clarksville's Office Lounge. Following the games, The Chute will host a social and a buffet from 6-9 p.m. followed by the pageant at Warehouse Two, set for 10 p.m.

More information on the pageant can be obtained from Warehouse Two (615) 385-9689, and more information on the day's activities can be obtained from any MCSA Board member. ✦

Feminist womyn's chorus forming in Music City

"Nashville Womyn," "Sentimental Womyn" and "Rugged But Right" are just a few of the musical numbers being workshoped by the newly formed Nashville Womyn's Chorus.

Sharon Byers, coordinator for the chorus says the group was formed to provide not only an alternative to womyn's traditional talk therapy, but to make beautiful music together.

Plans are to have some members of the group perform at Pride Week activities in June. The directors' goal, Byers said, is to train the group in a broad range of musical idioms.

The Chorus rehearses at the Bethlehem Center Gym at 1417 Charlotte Avenue every Sunday from 4-6 p.m. until April 8 when the time changes to 6-8 p.m. If interested in becoming a member, go to the rehearsal site or

call Byers at (615) 353-1336. ✦

Minnie Pearl, Janis Ian co-chair 1990 AIDS WALK

Country comic Minnie Pearl and folk balladeer Janis Ian will co-chair the Second Annual AIDS WALK on April 21.

Both women participated in the AIDS benefit Heart Strings last October, with Ian performing at For Pete's Sake last June. To help in the effort, Kathy Mattea will be doing local televised public service announcements with Minnie Pearl.

The goal this year is \$75,000 during the 6.2 mile walk. The funds are used to help Nashvillians and Middle Tennesseans whose lives have been touched by AIDS. Step-off is Saturday, April 21 at 8:30 a.m.

For additional information call (615) 329-6473. ✦

Interracial lesbian and gay support group organizing

People of All Color Together (PACT) is forming to support lesbian and gay relationships, whether lovers or just friends, that cross ethnic and cultural boundaries, said coordinator Phil Thomas.

In addition to providing a place for people of all colors to meet and exchange ideas, the organization will also sponsor educational, social, cultural and political activities and events, Thomas said.

An organization meeting will be held Sunday, March 25 from 5-7:00 p.m. to introduce those interested to PACT. For information, call (615) 885-5054. ✦

Tri-Cities

Wilson to speak at MCC

Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of the Tri-Cities will host the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson as their special guest speaker on April 29. Wilson is currently the pastor of MCC's Mother Church in Los Angeles. She has also served on the Board of Elders for the past 10 years and is known throughout the denomination as a stimulating and dynamic speaker.

For more information call MCC pastor Tam Schult at (615) 926-4393. ✦



Karen Culliver stars as Eliza Doolittle in Tennessee Repertory Theatre's *MY FAIR LADY* at TPAC's Polk Theatre, through March 31. For reservations, call (615) 741-2787. — DARE FILE PHOTO

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



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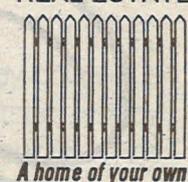
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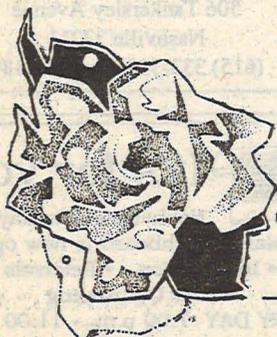


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...Unsolved murders

✦ *Continued from page 1*

Priest Lake Drive. Some 20 minutes later, "Stefan" attacked the man with a butcher knife and bound his feet and hands using wire coathangers. The man alleges that his attacker then beat and robbed him, making off with a variety of items, including the man's 1974 Ford LTD, a television set, a videocassette recorder, stereo system and jewelry.

Metro police did confirm that the man reported the attack on December 26. The suspect in that case was described as being about 5 feet-11 inches tall, around 30 years old, with medium brown hair and a mustache. "Stefan" also had a swastika tattooed on one leg, the man said.

"When I read about Aaron Overstreet, it really scared me, because the attack on him sounded far more brutal than the attack on me, but still similar in many ways," the man said.

Since September, 1988, four gay or bisexual men have been murdered in the Nashville area, with the Overstreet case the most recent one to be investigated.

The other unsolved murder cases include:

- Computer operator Vernon Lester Larkin, 30, who was found dead on September 7, 1988, in the living room of his apartment in the Hickory Valley area. He was found gagged and bound and lying between a cocktail table and a sofa in the blood-spattered apartment. He had apparently been struck several times with a blunt instrument.

Larkin had last been seen leaving The Jungle the preceding Sunday with a transient who became the prime suspect in the slaying. Police said at the time they were searching for a man with a stocky build, about 5 feet, 11 inches tall, weighing around 180 pounds. He was described as having dark hair, dark eyes, a mustache and tattoos on both arms.

Police told *Dare* in October, 1988, they believed the man had moved on to Atlanta and had "become lost among the homeless population" there.

- 34-year-old Barry McDonald's body was discovered on July 12, 1989, in his home at 2003 Upland Drive, in the Inglewood section of Nashville, by his roommate. Police said McDonald had been stabbed some 30 times by a still-unknown assailant. The victim died of stab wounds to the back and chest, according to the police report.

Police sources termed the murder "one of the most violent crimes in the city's history."

"It's kind of hard to say if the murder was directly related to Barry being gay," said Det. Terry McElroy of the Metro Murder Squad. "On the surface it has the appearance that another gay person could have been involved or that the murderer could have done it because Barry was gay."

"But to be honest, the hardest part of this investigation is coming up with the killer's possible motive," he said.

Police were looking for a man for questioning in connection with the murder, McElroy said. The man — who was seen by a neighbor through McDonald's kitchen window on Sunday, July 9 — was described as a white male, about six feet tall, having a slender build and weighing 130-150 pounds.

The suspect has not been apprehended.

- Goodlettsville police are continuing their search for the murderer of Volunteer State Community College professor Robert Sibert, who was found dead on October 22, 1989, in his home.

Clad only in his underwear, Sibert's body was discovered by his father and brother after his ex-wife had reported him missing after he failed to pick up his teenaged son for an outing.

Sibert died of a gunshot wound to the head, fired from a .380-caliber automatic pistol.

Police described the suspect in the case — seen using Sibert's credit cards — as a stocky white male, between 5 feet, 8 inches and 6 feet, 1 inch tall, with sandy brown hair, and weighing around 200 pounds.

No arrest has been made in that case. ✦



Aaron Overstreet — DARE FILE PHOTO

...Lentz T-cell count program

✦ *continued from page 1*

start what medications. Without T-cell counts, some people will be walking time bombs and won't know it until it is too late."

Each T-cell count by Lentz costs about \$35, said Knight, and this is just the cost of materials. Specialized Assays has agreed to forego labor costs for the counts to ease the financial burden.

"Private physicians charge between \$150 to \$210 for T-cell counts and many people cannot afford to pay that price," Knight said.

The T-cell count program is part of Lentz's HIV Plus Program through which people with HIV infection may receive education and comprehensive physical exams.

The program offers confidential HIV testing and pre and post-test counseling at no charge to individuals. Once someone is confirmed to have HIV infection, they may also

receive a complete history and physical exam to further evaluate their current medical status, with a special interest in determining the extent of HIV infection.

The HIV Plus Program also counsels people with HIV on good health measures, nutrition and safer sex practices, as well as reassuring them as they encounter non-life threatening illnesses and coordinating direct referrals for individuals who require intensive treatment, specialized evaluation or hospitalization.

Knight said there will be a number of fund raisers in the next several months to help with the T-cell Count Program.

To make a donation to the HIV Plus T-cell Count Program, you may send contributions to Dan McEachern (personal), Metro Health Department, Room 116, 311 23rd Ave. No., Nashville, TN 37203. ✦

Cross Country

Compiled by **KAREN MATHIS**
Editorial Assistant

Los Angeles

Black C.A.R.E. launches survey for gay/bisexual men

A nationwide survey of black gay and bisexual men has been launched to "let them tell us what life has been like for them...in terms of services, education, facilities and resources they would like and currently have."

Vickie Mays, the project director of Black Community AIDS Research and Education Project (Black C.A.R.E.) said the community is responding "fairly well. We're trying to get about 1,000 responses from across the country."

Mays has requested help from individuals and organizations in getting the survey into the hands of "any black man who has had sex with men."

Individuals can contact Black C.A.R.E. to request single or multiple copies of the survey, at: Black C.A.R.E. Project, 1283 Franz, Los Angeles, Calif., 90024, or by telephone at (213) 206-5162. ✦

New York

'Encyclopedia of Homosexuality' to be issued

Publication of the *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HOMOSEXUALITY* has been announced by Garland Publishing.

Issued in two volumes at a cost of \$150, the *ENCYCLOPEDIA* has been several years in preparation. It was produced by Wayne Dynes, professor of art history at Hunter College, in collaboration with 84 colleagues in the fields of literature, history, science, law, psychology, religion and sociology.

Considered far more comprehensive and elaborate than any previous reference work in gay studies, the *ENCYCLOPEDIA* is cross-cultural and "trans-historical," with coverage of Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Pacific and preliterate as well as literate peoples. ✦

Washington, D.C.

College freshmen's attitudes toward changing

Support for legislation prohibiting homosexual behavior dropped to a new low among college students in 1989, according to a survey of more than 200,000 students enrolled at over 400 colleges and universities.

The survey, conducted by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute and the American Council on Education, found that 45.4 percent of entering freshman men supported the statement, "It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships," the lowest support for that statement since the survey began in 1976.

The decline followed a trend downward from 49 percent in 1988 after an all-time high in 1986 (52 percent) and 1987 (53.1 percent). Prior to those years, support for sodomy laws had fluctuated in the 47-50 percent range. ✦

Indianapolis

National Women's Music Festival set for Bloomington

The Sixteenth Annual National Women's Music Festival will be held May 31-June 3 at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

Performers include Holly Near, Patty Larkin, Ferron, Deidre McCalla, Heather Bishop, Linda Tillery, Adrienne Torf, May Sarton and Buffy Sainte-Marie.

The festival will also emphasize a broad spectrum of women's culture and thought with over 100 workshops on subjects such as women of color, women and money and an older women's series and special conferences including a spirituality conference and a writers conference with Sapphire, Kay Leigh Hagan, Karla Jay and Minnie Bruce Pratt.

Other events will include seminars, networking and a dance.

For more information write to NWMF, P.O. Box 1427, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46206-1427, or telephone (317) 636-7382. ✦

Albany, N.Y.

Phone sex line operators win victory over NYTEL

Advocates and owners of phone sex lines won a victory March 7, when state regulators temporarily rejected a New York Telephone plan that many said would wipe out the booming phone sex industry in the state.

The action by the New York State Public Service Commission is a boost for opponents of a Jesse Helms-sponsored federal law aimed at severely restricting phone sex lines that was scheduled to go into effect March 21, reported Boston's *GAY COMMUNITY NEWS*.

Helms (R-NC) authored "dial-a-porn" legislation that was passed overwhelmingly by the U.S. Senate as part of an appropriations bill in November. The legislation, which is a revised version of a 1987 ban on phone sex lines that was later ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, prohibits "obscene" or "indecent" telephone communication for "commercial purposes" that is accessible to a person under 18.

The law requires telephone companies to block access to sex lines unless customers submit a written request saying they want access to the lines. ✦

Milwaukee

Ben-Shalom discharged after 16 year struggle

After 16 years, Miriam Ben-Shalom lost her bid to remain in the U.S. Army when Supreme Court justices refused to hear her petition for a review of a lower court decision that upheld the Defense Department's policy of discrimination against gay men and lesbians.

The high court's decision left intact the Defense Department's Directive 1332.14 which states, "homosexuality is incompatible with military service." Ben-Shalom learned on March 6 that her discharge papers were "in order" and she would be dismissed, according to THE WISCONSIN LIGHT. ✦

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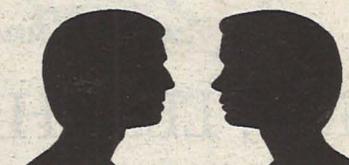


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Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly

Onstage

✦ Out of the shadows

THE SHADOW BOX. Written by Michael Cristofer. Directed by Robert Kiefer. Circle Players, Nashville. TPAC's Johnson Theatre. Through April 1.

reviewed by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

In what is probably the most completely satisfying production from Nashville's Circle Players this season, director Robert Kiefer has assembled a fine cast in a revival of Michael Cristofer's Pulitzer Prize-winning *THE SHADOW BOX*.

First produced in 1977, Cristofer's tale of three terminally ill people and their families and how they approach the inevitability of death is perhaps more compelling today, in the age of AIDS. With a compassionate sense of humor and a well-informed idea of what terminal illness means — not just to the patient but to those around her or him — Cristofer has crafted a story that is both involving and intriguing.

Kiefer's thoughtful, yet somehow provocative, direction sets the standard for local stage dramas still to come this season. His intuitive eye makes the production all the more powerful, his skillful casting resulting in an ensemble creation that is at once both heart-wrenching and uplifting.

Kiefer's ability to cast the right actor in the right role is perhaps felt most strongly in the performance of Janet Coscarelli, whose Felicity hits home with an honest grittiness that makes her scenes almost too painful to watch. Coscarelli, heretofore known primarily for her comic roles, is nothing short of stunning as she brings the not-totally-likable Felicity to

vivid life.

Coscarelli is given ample support from Elizabeth Daniel as her put-upon daughter Agnes. Daniel's is a heartfelt performance, brimming with emotion and resignation.

Vying for top acting honors with Coscarelli is Rita Frizzell as Beverly, the flamboyant former wife of Bryan (played with intensity and an overwhelming sense of hope by J. Leon Miller), a gay man now living with his lover Mark (Mike Norman, who chews up the scenery with relish, ultimately delivering a thoroughly heartfelt performance). Frizzell is ideal as the flashy Beverly, brandishing a bottle of champagne and proudly displaying the "medals" of her sexual conquests with élan. Frizzell is wonderfully funny in her comic moments, almost chillingly real in her dramatic scenes. Cristofer's treatment of the gay relationship is refreshingly natural.

Finally, in the third cottage (the play's action takes place in three cottages on the grounds of a large California hospital), there is Joe (engagingly portrayed by Daniel Luther with an underlying current of strength and pride) and his wife Maggie (Debi Shinnars in a moving performance), who with their son Steve (Gabe Sanchez in a winning portrayal) has flown in from New Jersey. Luther, Shinnars and Sanchez relate the blue collar hopes and fears of the family impeccably.

And no one can review *THE SHADOW BOX* and not give credit to the evening's most important supporting character, the score by Alisa Jones, which she performs on the hammered dulcimer. Jones has created a score that is both original and vaguely reminiscent, tying the disparate characters and situations together. ✦

✦ Girlfriends

THE BOP SHE BOPS. Directed by Katie Gladfelter. Musical arrangements by Nathan Burbank. Rave Revues. Backstage at the Barn, Nashville. Through April 7.

reviewed by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Featuring a novel approach that's both entertaining and nostalgic, Rave Revues scores another big hit with *THE BOP SHE BOPS*, a musical trip back to 1964 that features all of the songs we love to remember from that era.

From "Who Wrote the Book of Love?" to "Rockin' Robin," all of the those wonderful songs of the '50s and '60s are here, performed by an engaging trio of actresses. Under the direction of Katie Gladfelter, the three women who comprise the Bop She Bops (three high school friends who reunite 10 years after graduation to form a trio) give the old songs some new twists, connecting them with some fine comic turns.

Gladfelter has assembled a marvelous cast. Rona Carter stars as Lucille, a manicurist with a mission: trying for all she's worth to look like Marilyn Monroe, Carter instead comes across

as Sandra Dee wiggled out on Dexatrim. She's wonderfully funny, delivering her musical numbers ("In the Still of the Night" and "[Mama said] There'd Be Days Like This") are but two with brass and sass.

Carter's performance of the Aretha Franklin standard, "Respect" is stunning! She's no Aretha, to be sure, but she's no Reba McEntire either. Her rendition is *the* show-stopper.

Making their debuts on the Backstage at the Barn stage are Ann Street as Jeannie, a truck-stop waitress who rides a Harley, and Connie Freeman as Carol, a housewife whose dreams go beyond her Tupperware sales career.

Street's Jeannie is deliciously naughty — the kind of girl your mother always warned you about, you know, like Ann-Margret in *KITTEN WITH A WHIP* — and she can belt out a song with the best of them.

Freeman's Carol has just the right mid-'60s looks, personality and wardrobe. Whether she's pushing Tupperware or selling a song, she's a winning performer.

Accompanied by Nathan Burbank (as Duane), the show is fast-paced, funny and a whale of an entertainment — and they have shows on Thursdays! ✦

Persistence of Vision

✦ In the 'Steel' of the night

BLUE STEEL. Directed by Kathryn Bigelow. Starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Ron Silver. Written by Kathryn Bigelow and Eric Reed. 1990.

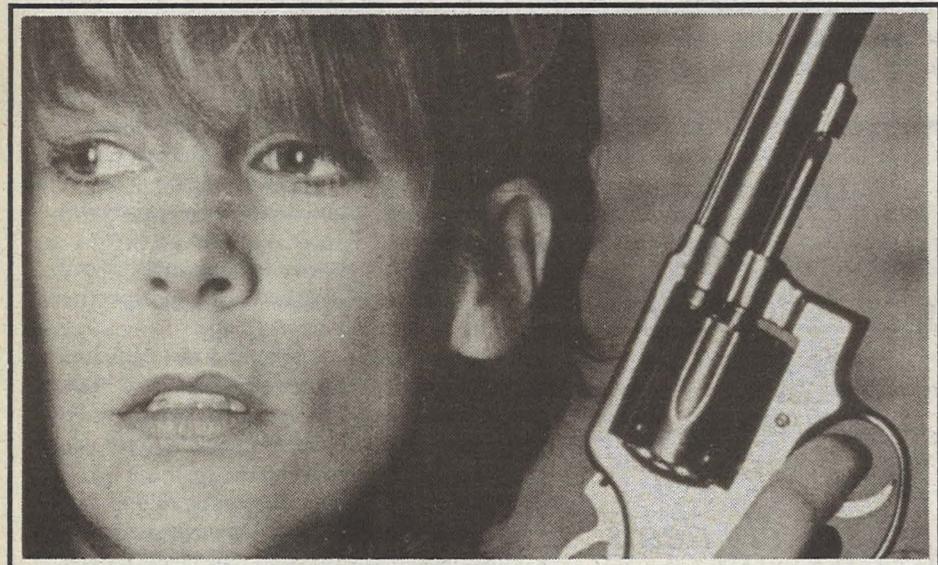
reviewed by **FLYNNE MALONE**
Staff Writer

My God! *BLUE STEEL* is great looking. It's been a while since I've seen such a director's eye yoked with such handsome cinematography that tries in virtually every shot to please those rod and cones.

Director Kathryn Bigelow and director of photography Amir Mokri have a visual win-

nation. This is movie making. The plot revolves around the psychopathic attachments to Turner of gold commodities broker Eugene, played with a savage competence by Ron Silver (currently in *ENEMIES, A LOVE STORY*). As such, much of the lethal craziness is carried by the track that represents his interior warped stated of mind. First class film *KLUTE* comes to memory with its eerie tension, re-delivered in *BLUE STEEL* with violin rather than voice.

In the scenes of extreme interior panic, an underwater percussion conveys a dull sense



ner, maybe even a classic.

The first shot down a hallway, which is potentially as banal as any of the other cop locations (squad cars, precincts, offices, etc.) gives a hint of the chroma to come: "New York's Finest" blue, a yellow window shade, and red ceiling lights tip off the eye to the pure delight that's on the way.

The opening credits, extreme close-ups of a gun that drive it to a desirable abstraction, are reminiscent of the Bond film credits before they got such a reputation for splendid richness that they lost their way in nude self-consciousness.

Former painter Bigelow relies on back lighting for highlights and atmosphere. Headlights of the car behind give a rainy car interior a supernatural glow. Likewise, she opts for short depth of field to focus attention on the characters, and she pays attention to the color fields and compositions that are rendered softly to abstraction as a consequence.

Color everywhere, and Bigelow punches the blue theme to the sky with cold lighting. Rather than opting for obvious head-on illumination, she leans toward side lighting that sketches the contours of a face as fine as Jamie Lee Curtis's (*TRADING PLACES, HALLOWEEN, FISH CALLED WANDA, DOMINICK AND EUGENE, AMAZING GRACE AND CHUCK, etc.*) as rookie cop Megan Turner.

Bigelow, too, knows when to use her extreme camera angles, but saves them mostly for the shooting sequences. Her use of slow motion, especially the way it is married to the sound track, is effective. Blood splatters at Peckinpah speed, with not much left to imagi-

of dread.

"It was important to me that Megan Turner have an androgyny," says Bigelow in *ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY*.

Fans of Curtis, of which I am one, will not be disappointed. Bigelow does not exploit her body as has happened in some previous films, most obviously in *PERFECT*.

Turner is just tough, but still a fully realized person with fears, pain, loneliness and family. Louise Fletcher plays a very convincing, puffy, aging, abused, full-blown mom, and the family scenes are quite real.

BLUE STEEL's plot is riddled with some bullet holes, and Silver's endurance in the face of so many attempts on his life reminds you of *THE TERMINATOR*.

No surprise when you learn that Bigelow is married to *TERMINATOR*'s accomplished director, James Cameron.

I didn't go to *BLUE STEEL* looking for plot.

I went looking for escape, and I found that and a gorgeous eyeful, too. That's why it's a hell of a movie. Bigelow is extremely talented. If she ever gets hold of a script with depth, we're in for a first class ride.

"Films can be the loophole in the fabric of a person's life," she says (in *ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY*), "the place where they can live out fantasies, live out fears, and walk away unharmed."

It seems that she's concentrating on entertainment, rather than enlightenment. Okay by me.

If filmmakers don't satisfy my mind, then please do please my eye. Ms. Bigelow, you can. ✦

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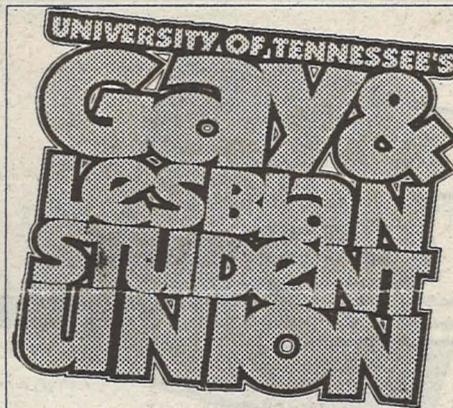
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Onstage

✦ Warm leatherette!

BATTLE SCARS. By Den-Nickolas Smith. Directed by Vincent Astor. Lollipop Guild at The Theatre Works, Memphis. March 18-20.

reviewed by **BEN YISSAK**
Special to Dare

Birthing a new play is an awesome responsibility.

The cast and crew of Sunday night's premiere of *BATTLE SCARS* handled the responsibility with the dedication and enthusiasm it deserved.

Memphis playwright Den-Nickolas Smith is to be congratulated for a work that sensitively deals with the intense themes of love, rape and betrayal within the context of a deteriorating relationship.

Memphis playwright Den-Nickolas Smith is to be congratulated for a work that sensitively deals with the intense themes of love, rape and betrayal within the context of a deteriorating relationship.

Smith delivers powerful messages without preaching and respects his audience enough to allow them to reach their own conclusions about the price of deception and cruelty.

While of special interest to the lesbian and gay community, especially those involved in leather, he addresses values universal to all human relationships. For those uninitiated into the leather lifestyle, the play offered a real education. Women and men of leather had the rare experience of seeing themselves on stage and in the theatre's spotlight.

The story revolves around two leathersmen, August (Matt Presley) and Drey (Vance Reger), who have just celebrated their second anniversary as a couple.

A source of ongoing conflict between them is Ben (Den-Nickolas Smith), a young friend of August's who is fascinated with the leather lifestyle.

While Ben is obsessed with the idea of finding the leatherman of his dreams and a

career in dance, August is concerned about the harm that Ben's naïveté almost guarantees.

In addition, Drey's past hovers over the threesome and pushes them into escalating emotions that lead to violence.

Pre-performance promotion warned that the two act play contained "adult-related material, uncensored language, partial nudity and some violence."

Unlike so much of today's entertainment, these elements were not intended for mere shock value. They were tastefully included to tell the real story of the leather lifestyle.

Despite a few opening night flaws, including forgotten lines, the audience of the sold-out performance were treated to a fine experience of community theatre.

It was the Lollipop Guild's first production in a legitimate theatre (other performances have been hosted in local bars). Their efforts deserve the professional setting.

The playwright sensitively portrayed young Ben.

Reger, as Drey, was forceful in a difficult part that seesawed between introspective gentleness and lumbering rage.

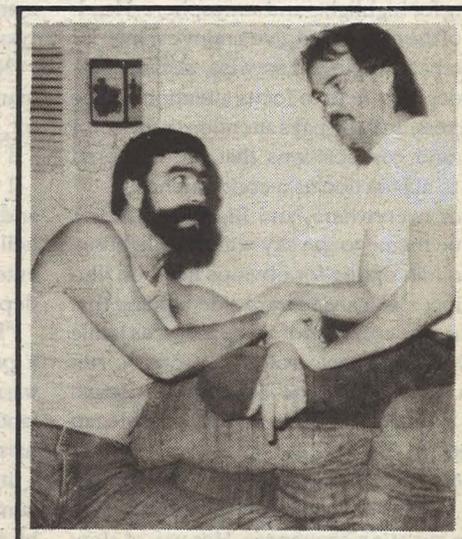
Presley's August should have been the voice of reason between Drey and Ben. However, he too often came off as disgusted with them both. Frustration would have been a more appropriate reaction.

Kerrell Ard, in the supporting role of Taz, was adequate in the part. However, he wasn't given much to work with. The character was underdeveloped and added little to the plot.

Director Vincent Astor skillfully moved the actors through their scenes at a pace that maximized the dramatic effect of the author's slowly cresting climax.

The set design was perfect, down to the genuine left-over pizza crusts wasting away among empty beer cans on the coffee table.

The lesbian and gay community needs more creative efforts of this caliber. Let's hope Smith and the Lollipop Guild are already working on their next project. Other cities would be smart to take *BATTLE SCARS* to their own communities for both the message and the entertainment value. ✦



Vance Reger and Matt Presley. — PHOTO BY VINCENT ASTOR

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Onstage

✦ Mitzi-thing goes

ANYTHING GOES. Music and lyrics by Cole Porter. Original Book by Guy Bolton and P.G. Wodehouse, Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse. New book by Timothy Crouse and John Weidman. Directed by Philip Cusack. TPAC's Broadway Series. Jackson Hall, Nashville.

reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**
Editor

That darn Mitzi! Who else would have the chutzpah to re-tailor a classic Cole Porter musical to suit her own somewhat questionable talents?

The show is Porter's wonderfully tuneful farce, *ANYTHING GOES*, the wacky tale of a trans-Atlantic crossing, with a ship of foolish — but still quite likable — people who find themselves in completely ridiculous circumstances. The situations are totally implausible, but the original book by theatre legends Guy Bolton, P.G. Wodehouse, Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse (updated by Crouse's son Timothy and John Weidman) is great good fun, a splendid example of '30s-flavored escapism.

And there are, of course, all of those wonderful Cole Porter songs: "I Get a Kick Out of You," "You're the Top," "Easy to Love," "Friendship," "It's Delovely" and "All Through the Night." If taken simply as a concert featuring Cole Porter songs, it's a wildly successful undertaking. Unfortunately, however, audiences are subjected to a shameless star turn by a Las Vegas entertainer who's not altogether bad, just horribly grating.

To be sure, Gaynor still has those gorgeous gams — maybe the best since Betty Grable and before Ann Reinking — and she's a genuinely winning performer whose own nightclub show is terrific. But, unfortunately, she's not up to the role of Reno Sweeney, the evangelist turned nightclub performer. It's a role originally created by Ethel Merman and revived in the 1988 Lincoln Center production by Patti Lupone. But, rest assured, Gaynor is no Lupone, and she's certainly no Merman.

Gaynor's voice is strong at certain moments in certain songs and her ability to belt almost rivals Merman's, but she is unable to sustain that power and her voice levels off into some high, flat, reedy register, and her delivery tends to be a bit too Vegas-inspired. Her dancing is much better: she's still the queen of the high kick and she's amazingly adept at scampering around in stiletto pumps.

But the real star power in this show is reserved for Bob Mackie, the high priest of sequins and bugle beads, who has created for Gaynor a dozen costumes that are stunning! In her 14 — yes, count 'em, 14 — costume changes, Gaynor is clad in a cavalcade of glamorous, gorgeous gowns that show off her knock 'em dead figure at its best.

Stunning costumes and hitting the occasional good note do not a great musical make, however, and Gaynor's slim talents can't carry the weight of her starring role.

The evening is saved by the tremendous ensemble numbers that highlight the show. Gaynor is at her best in the act one finale,

"Anything Goes," joined by a tap-dancing chorus of six women and six men, and the rest of the cast singing their hearts out. It's a big, terrific number that spotlights the cast — and Porter.

That excitement is maintained with the act two opening, "Blow, Gabriel, Blow," a number performed with evangelistic zeal by Gaynor and Reno's four angels. It's a singing, dancing frolic that nearly brings down the house.

In supporting roles, Robert Nichols and Dorothy Kiara (as gangster Moonface Martin and his moll, Erma) are delightful, Kiara very nearly stealing the show with her B-movie characterization. Scott Stevenson, cast as leading man Billy Crocker, is a bit long in the tooth to be believable as a boyish "broken down broker," although he makes up for his miscasting with his lovely voice (especially on "All Through the Night").

Others in supporting roles who stand out are Gordon Connell (as magnate Elisha Whitney, who's given Porter's Yale fight song, "Bulldog, Bulldog, Bulldog" to sing), Donna

*Stunning costumes
and hitting the
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note do not a great
musical make,
and Gaynor's slim
talents can't carry
the weight of her
starring role.*

English (as debutante Hope Harcourt), and Lin Snider (subbing on opening night for Evelyn Page as Hope's mother).

But the evening's best performance is delivered by Richard Sabellico as Hope's fiancé Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. Sabellico gives a performance that's both endearing and entertaining. His duet with Gaynor on "The Gypsy in Me" is the evening's musical highlight, as they perform a sort of tango-cha cha, Sabellico staying in character throughout, which is no small feat.

Tony Walton's art deco-inspired sets — pared-down versions of his Broadway sets — are superb, his costumes for the company lovely, evocative recreations of the '30s.

The evening's low point comes during the show's curtain call, which starts out as a terrific, all singing/dancing series of bows from the supporting players. Then out comes Mitzi (she had to change costumes, remember) who shamelessly milks the audience for every last clap, eventually shaming them into standing for her final ovation. It's a cheap moment that nearly ruins the evening. ✦

Thanks, Tennessee, for two great years!

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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.

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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...

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Pages

✦ Getting serious about gay fiction

MUSIC I NEVER DREAMED OF. By John Gilgun. *HORSE AND OTHER STORIES.* By Bo Huston. New York: Amethyst Press. 1989.

reviewed by JOE MAROHL
 Staff Writer

Don't let the PLAYGUYish covers fool you. Amethyst Press wants to publish "serious" gay fiction. Their starting line-up includes works by Kevin Killian and Dennis Cooper, two writers whose writing styles became influential to much mainstream popular writing in the 1980s (LESS THAN ZERO and BRIGHT LIGHTS BIG CITY owe much to these two talents).

Amethyst seems to have virtual dibs on the new narrative writers (or the Maximalists or whatever they want to call themselves today), who are, in my opinion, the most interesting presence in American gay literature right now.

Amethyst introduced itself last year by publishing books by Cooper (a reissue of a 1979 collection of poems), Killian, John Gilgun and Bo Huston. Though the works vary in quality, it is evident that this is a press that wants to be on the frontline of gay fiction.

John Gilgun's novel, *MUSIC I NEVER DREAMED OF*, is a coming-out story set in McCarthy Era Boston.

The narrator is a young Irish Catholic homosexual, Stevie Riley, just beginning to come to terms with who he is.

Gilgun's writing evokes the era, the early 1950s, when to be gay was to be a homo—a sad sort of character with a limp wrist who knows the names of flowers and reads European novels.

What makes this different from the hundreds of similar coming-out novels is the absolute authenticity of its historical setting.

Gilgun portrays a period of recent history as paranoid and conformist as the state described in George Orwell's *1984*, with which he readily identifies.

Riley's coming out is furtive and cloudy, dependent as much on the stereotypes and myths about homosexuality in the 1950s as on the mysterious desires of his body.

I haven't read a novel with as strong a sense of time and place since Alan Hollinghurst's *THE SWIMMING-POOL LIBRARY*.

Gilgun makes Riley's secret lusts, self-doubts, feelings of separateness and guilt, and ambivalence entirely convincing and sympathetic. Riley's boyish fantasies of wrestling ("bopping") and cuddling and various other forms of frottage are at once naive and highly erotic.

His close friendship with an older woman named Luanne becomes the impetus for his discovery about his own nature and the ferociously homophobic world in which he lives. Riley is a familiar and likable figure whose painful mental struggle never once rings a false or maudlin note.

I was somewhat less impressed with *HORSE AND OTHER STORIES*, a collection of fourteen short stories by Huston. Too many of the stories read more like creative writing exercises than finished narratives.

I'm all for experimental fiction, but a num-

ber of these stories seem incomplete and half-baked, as if thrown together in a hurry to meet a deadline. The book, on the whole, is uneven and overpunctuated.

The stories blend surrealism and slice-of-life reportage, sort of like some of John Cheever's better stuff.

But Huston's stories lack Cheever's fatalistic denouements or, for that matter, closure of any sort.

Every two or three pages, the writer adds a character, as if to further his plot, and then at some point, the narrative merely stops. No conflict. No dramatic tension. No beginning, middle and end, to speak of. No impetus to

Their starting line-up includes works by Kevin Killian and Dennis Cooper, two writers whose writing styles became influential to much mainstream popular writing in the 1980s.

turn from one page to the next.

What is worse is the lack of elegance in the writing. Much could be forgiven elsewhere if there were an identifiable tone or texture to the sentences.

At times the prose comes close to the raw leanness one sees in Cooper's or Sam D'Allesandro's recent short fiction, but never fully succeeds.

The paragraphs clump together like dumplings when they should be piercing the flesh like steel blades.

I don't want to suggest, though, that the stories are all bad. Some of the stories are, in spite of everything I have said, quite good.

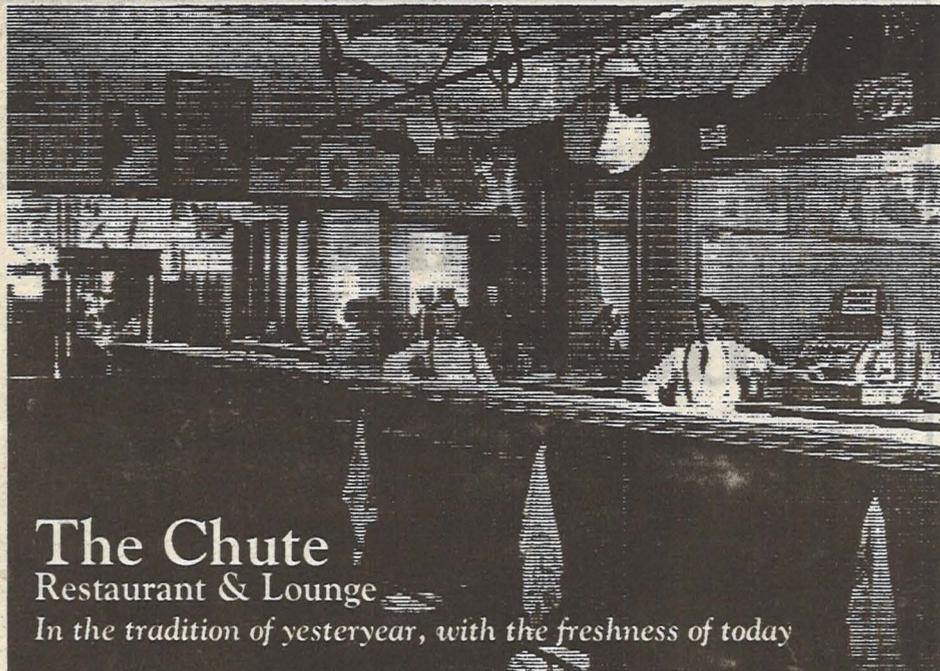
I rather enjoyed the story "Seven Kinds of Pity," in particular.

Huston tells of a man who kills his wife and young son, is committed to a psychiatric hospital for the criminally insane, and then upon his release, seven years later, marries the Japanese woman who has been his pen pal.

Together they take over the management of a small, isolated motel. Not much else happens, but the claustrophobia and inappropriate effect of the prose serve the story well. And unlike some of the other stories, its execution is as impressive as its concept.

A distrust of conventional family life and a horror of immobility are at the center of most of the stories in *HORSE*.

What the better stories indicate is a writer of promise whose vision of the world might be better expressed in a novel rather than in the meticulous constraints of short fiction. ✦



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+ Personals

• Kim: Congratulations on getting accepted. I miss you sweetheart. All of my love, Trevor.

• GWF, 32, enjoys outdoors, quiet evngs at home, music, movies, gd conversation. Prefer GWF 28-40 w/ similar interests who's tired of bars & one-night stands. No drugs / hvy drink. Photo, phone. Dare DRAWER 75

• Robin Z — How are things in Knoxlnd? Have you ket all the fun people & found all the good places? We miss you here in Nashville. Our best to your Dad. Hang tough, baby. Love you! — Anne & Holly

• GWF: not perfect. Lkng 4 GWF who's a friend, teacher, lover & partner 4 as long as love is there 4 each other. Someone 2 share hopes, dreams & fantasies. Mtg halfway in relationship & loving that person 4 who they are. Dare DRAWER 74

• GWM, 5'11", 160, br/bl, 29, top wanting to try bottom (maybe forever) with right stud! Sks 20-35, photo a must. Relationship oriented. Dare DRAWER 73

• Darren, you know I love you, but I never want to live with you again. Call me if you ever get your head together, and know "what you want." — Carroll

• Teddy bear sks same for major cuddle time. Frndship 1st, then, whatever happens. GWM, 33, quiet, shy, romantic; no one-night stands. You should be strong, silent, sensitive type, or at least close. Dare DRAWER 72

• Travis, thanks a million for all the wonderful thoughts, times & feelings. Thanks to you my life is now complete & fulfilled. I'll love & worship you forever & ever with all my love & respect. Kevin

• Trina, for nearly 5 years, you've been my lady, my lover & my best friend. I want you to know, as proof of my love, as long as I have a face, you'll always have a place to sit. What? Kill me? Denise

• **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

• 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.

• Pussy: Thank you & god for two & a half years of joy and thunder. You're the stars in my eyes and the corns on my feet. I can't wait every day for night so we can rub our feet together as we fall asleep, only to wake up to your gouching sweet self. I love you for being a real person. Here's to a lifetime together. — Bunny's nephew

• 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 actives week-end 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 gdlk, 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.

• GWF would love to meet GWF, petite, fem. & lkng for the attention & affection she deserves. I have a great career & like to be w/ positive people who want the most out of life. Are you what I am missing? Dare DRAWER 57

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— Lord Alfred Douglas, "The Two Loves," 1892

March 23, 1990 ♦ Volume 3, Number 12

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✦ Letters from D.C., Louisiana, New York and Nashville

Dear Dare:

Unfortunately, the xerox copy I received of the review of my novel CHANGING THE PAST, published in your issue of January 12th, was so poor as pretty much to obscure the reviewer's last name, else I would have written directly to him.

But perhaps you would be so good as to forward my thanks to Joe [Marohl] for writing about the book in a way that pleased me greatly. I usually get a lot of favorable reviews that nevertheless wildly misinterpret my novels. But this is one of the exceptions.

THOMAS BERGER
Palisades, New York

Dear Dare:

To those of the LAYDES Auxiliary; Metropolitan Community Church, its membership, supporters, friends; 5 Points Depot owners, Steve Russell and staff; all contributors; and Dare, we of MCC/Nashville take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation for the \$526 given to fund our AIDS Foodbank during our annual Mardi Gras party.

It is only because of the generosity of this community that we will strive to serve all those needing the AIDS Foodbank's help through this special ministry.

Again, thank you all, and God bless each of you is our prayer.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Nashville

JAC GREGORY

Treasurer
HARRISON HICKS
Foodbank Coordinator
RODNEY BRAGG
Pastor

Dear Dare:

Congratulations on your 100th issue. I am sure your readers know how lucky they are to have such a good newspaper to let them know what is happening in Tennessee.

But your paper is also useful to people in other areas since we like to know what you are doing, and when we come to your area, it has ads for places for us to go, and even the most particular person can find something of interest in the events you list.

I also like your book reviews. I believe that we need to learn as much as we can about sex and homosexuality.

And even though there are now organizations and publishers for each small segment of the community, limiting their interests to, for instance, lesbian mothers, or leather men, etc., we must not let ourselves be divided.

The major problems apply to all of us, whether we are women or men, young or old, black or white, rich or poor, religious or atheist, etc.

I urge your readers to support organizations. Also help the libraries/archives, such as the Homosexual Information Center, to preserve our history.

Donate back issues of magazines and books no longer wanted, etc. And it takes money to pay our rent and utilities, and we need people to help catalog and do work in the organizations.

It is hard to understand why publishers, including such profitable publications as ADVOCATE, refuse to donate copies to the dozen or so movement libraries/archives. And movement publishers of books, such as Alyson, do not donate a copy of their books, even though this would help publicize them as well as preserve them for future generations of homosexuals, historians, etc. We need to educate even movement people about such values.

Good luck, and many more issues for many more years.

WILLIAM EDWARD GLOVER
Homosexual Information Center, Inc.
Bossier City, Louisiana

Dear Dare:

Recent passage of the national "Hate Crimes" bill, addressing anti-gay violence, and defeat of [Senator] Jesse Helms' [R-N.C.] outrageous amendment, was a result of many factors, including grassroots mail from people across the country.

For a change, constituents on our side were heard. I'm proud to point out that one reason was Speak Out, the Campaign Fund's pre-authorized constituent mail program. A spokesperson for People for the American Way described the Speak Out program as having "tremendous power."

Because Speak Out makes it simple and easy for people to be heard, and because it

allows us to coordinate constituent mail with legislative developments, we were able to generate more than 20,000 Western Union messages to Senators from all 50 states urging support and co-sponsorship of the Hate Crimes.

If your readers haven't yet joined Speak Out, we urge them to do so by writing or calling us. If individuals will help build the system by "canvassing" at community events and gathering places, we'd love the help.

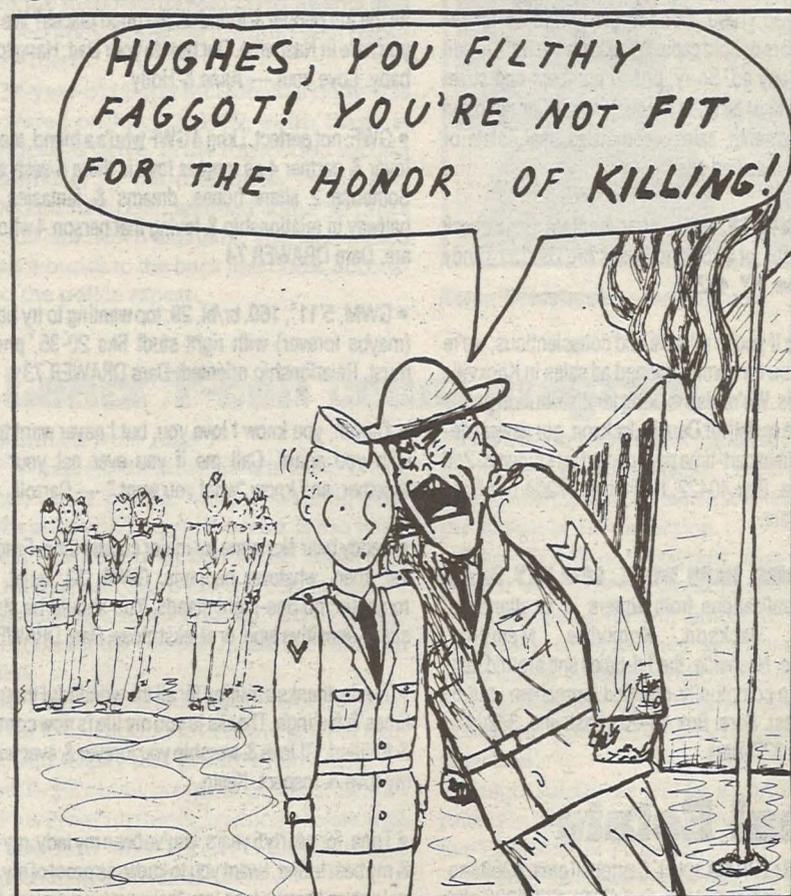
If there are well-organized, assertive individuals who'd be interested in serving as our "Area Canvass Supervisor" in the state it's a great opportunity to make a difference.

While both Senators [Albert] Gore and [Jim] Sasser voted right on Hate Crimes and on the Helms amendment (and should get notes of thanks from each of us), we need to generate far more grassroots mail from people in Tennessee if we're going to win on the many AIDS and lesbian/gay rights votes ahead.

For most of the 20 years I've worked full-time in the lesbian/gay movement, we've had an incredibly difficult time generating grassroots mail. Now, Speak Out gives us a good chance to turn that around, but no strategy works unless we can get the necessary participation.

STEVE ENDEAN
Field Division Director
Human Rights Campaign Fund
Washington, D.C.

STONEWALL RIOTS



— CARTOON BY ANDREA NATALIE

Loose Lips

✦ The kindness of strangers...

"They thought I'd had a disease in Missouri. No woman would cut her hair off and look like a dyke. They were convinced I was a dyke."

— *Actress Kathleen Turner, currently beating up Broadway in a revival of Tennessee Williams' CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF, to a writer from VANITY FAIR, about her college days at Southwest Missouri State University.*

"A lot of people who were at our wedding had started out as pretty homophobic, just your average Joe who thinks he doesn't know any gay people—"

— *Professional body builder Bob Paris, commenting to THE ADVOCATE's David Perry, about his marriage to body builder Rod Jackson. The couple publicly announced their union in IRONMAN magazine, a periodical for body builders.*

"Lovers is fine for single people. But we're married. If others want us to refer to them as lovers, we will. We just want them, and the media, to respect our choice."

— *Rod Jackson, explaining the couple's preference for the terms "husband" or "spouse" to be used for each other.*

"Before [coming out] it was this dirty little secret that people thought they could throw at me. But now, all their power is taken away."

— *Paris, again, in THE ADVOCATE.*

"He was so many things to so many of us. Boss, bon vivant, raconteur, balloonist, columnist, happiest millionaire, leader of the pack...friend, super this, mega that...and sparkling naughty boy."

— *Robert Forbes, in his eulogy delivered at the funeral of his father, Malcolm Forbes in New York's St. Bartholomew's Church.*

"I'm a tomboy...as a child I never wanted to be a woman, so I learned to think like a boy and I think that's what frightens men most, this freedom of thought and the pleasure of competition in life."

— *Pop-rock diva Grace Jones, to HELLO magazine.*

"When Arsenio Hall had Sherman Helmsley of AMEN on the hotseat in January, he failed to ask him what we most wanted to know: the 'T' on those allegations that Sherman's entering a new chapter in his life, one which will not include a muscular West Hollywood blond. But then we 'spouse Arsenio knew better than to throw stones from a glass soundstage..."

— *Preston G. Guider, gossip columnist for BLK, writing in "Read My Lips." Gossip for a kinder, gentler nation of black lesbians and gays.*

"Ooh, that scares me, there's one guy up there clapping."

— *TV chatfest host Arsenio Hall, responding to his audience's wild reaction to guest Donna Mills' comments about his cute buns. Please, Arsenio, we know you loved having that guy applaud your butt.*

"I tend to trivialize the men. They're either women trapped in men's bodies, like Alan Alda or Phil Donahue, or younger guys who are like camp followers looking for easy lays. Those males don't vote, and when they do, they're starry-eyed liberal Democrats who subscribe to PLAYBOY."

— *Rep. Robert Dornan (R-Calif.), about men who are pro-choice supporters.*



Kathleen Turner: Is she or isn't she? Only her hairdresser knows for sure. — DARE FILE PHOTO

"I regard it as a tragedy that people of a differing sexual orientation find themselves proscribed in a world that has so little understanding for homosexuals and that displays such gross indifference for sexual gradations and variations and the great significance for living. It is completely foreign to me to wish to regard such people as less valuable, less moral, incapable of noble sentiments and behavior."

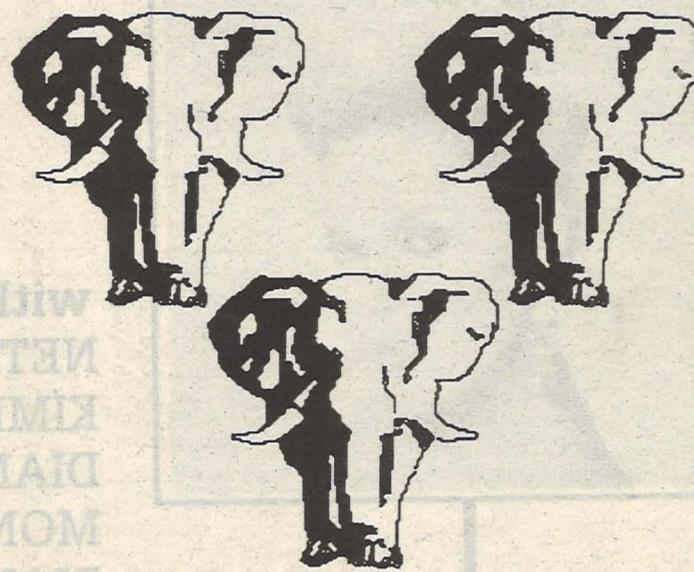
— *Social activist Emma Goldman (1869-1940).*

"We have forced gay people into the red light districts, forced them to meet each other in bars and lurid places — then we call them promiscuous sinners."

— *Adele Starr, founding president of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG).*

"Those who believe that AIDS is God's way of punishing sinners must be hard put to explain the deaths of so many babies who contracted the disease in the wombs of their infected mothers or of the innocent people who got it from blood transfusions. The people who think AIDS is retribution must be puzzled, too, by the disproportionate amount of talent we have lost with people who have died of AIDS. Homosexual males seem to have contributed more than their share to our culture. Frequently, the homosexual's talent is great, unique and inexplicable."

— *Writer and 60 MINUTES commentator Andy Rooney, quoted by Leigh Rutledge in his book UNNATURAL QUOTATIONS.*



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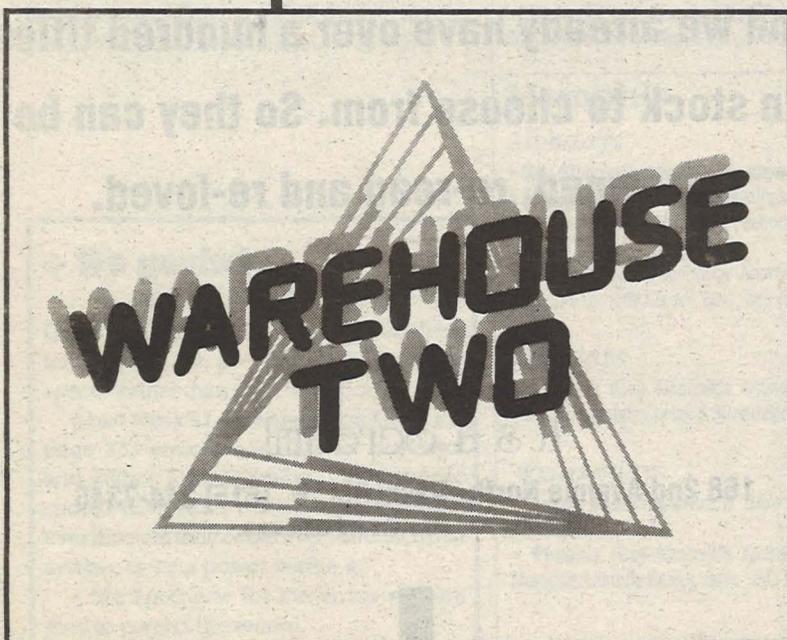
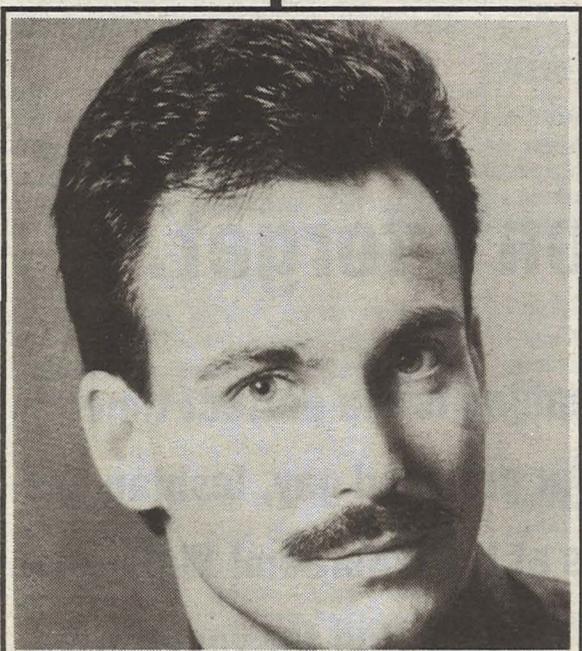
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 - 1:30 p.m. games begin
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