

G CN GUIDE

N A S H V I L L E



VOL. I, No. 7

JULY 1989

... STAY TUNED ...
FOR

MORE GAY & LESBIAN PRIDE

I N D E X

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CABLECAST SCHEDULE

CABLE CHANNEL 35

TUESDAYS AT 9:00 P.M. AND SATURDAYS AT 8:00 P.M.

Tues. June 27

Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration
'89, *Part I.*

(Delayed satellite transmission from
West Hollywood)

Tues. July 4

Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration
'89, *Part II.*

(Delayed satellite transmission from
West Hollywood)

Tues July 11

Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration
'89, *Part III.*

Sat. July 1

(Delayed satellite transmission from
West Hollywood)

Tues. July 18

GCN/Nashville: "Between The Lines"
(local news magazine)

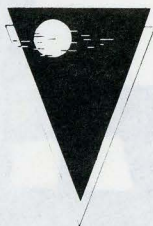
Tues. July 25

C.A.N. Report: Interview with openly
gay Congressman Barney Frank; and
an interview with Bore Hadliegh from
"Gay Talk"

Sat. July 29

*The above schedule is subject to last minute
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VIEWER'S BOX

Dear Krzysztof, Diane & GCN/N staff,

I saw *Between The Lines* for the first time this evening and I have to commend you for your achievements, and indeed your courage. Our time, in the country, as in Nashville has arrived and our strength and growth comes from our unity. Gay Cable Network/Nashville has the ability to become the foundation for that unity.

I am proud to be a part of a community that is growing daily in strength and acceptance. Thank you for your hard work — it has paid off and will only continue to improve! I wish you only the best!

Always,
Matt Nelson

GCN/Nashville welcomes expression of opinion from its viewers and readers of GCN Guide. We reserve the right to edit all letters as needed. Letters must be signed and include the address and telephone number of the author for verification if necessary. The authors identity may be withheld from printing if so requested.

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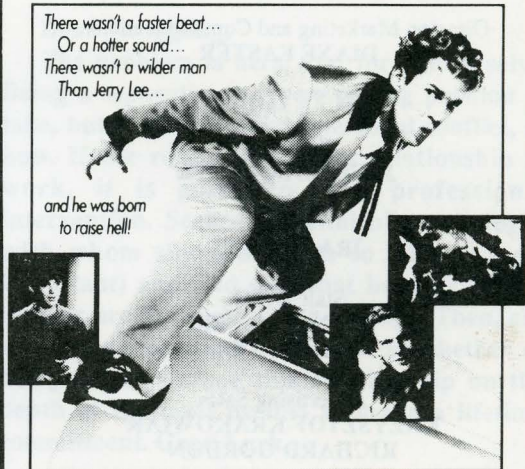
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GCN Guide, the official publication of Gay Cable Network/Nashville, is provided to GCN volunteers, members of the gay and lesbian community, and friends of GCN to keep them abreast of GCN programs, activities, and concerns.

To add names to the GCN mailing list, to change an address, to submit ideas and suggestions for GCN, to sponsor a GCN show, or to advertise in *GCN Guide*, contact:

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DEAR DAVID

Dear David,

My life has changed ever since I found out I'm HIV positive. It took me a long time to be able to meet and date guys again. But how can you do that without letting them know that you're infected? I don't think that I need to share this with just anybody, so I wait until I get to know them a little. By then we're already sexually involved, and although I play safe, the news about my HIV infection usually freaks them out. This last guy I met was so angry that he not only broke up the relationship but also started to spread the rumor that I try to infect other people. This really hurt me, and frankly I don't know how I should handle this. I just think it's ridiculous to say you're HIV positive before you're able to get to know the other person.

T

Dear T,

Your situation is a negative one that you set yourself up for; the solution is to set yourself up for a positive situation. It lies in your approach to the other person. You state that you wait until you get to know someone better, yet after sexual involvement, before you break the news. There's the negative setup. The other person felt deceived at that point in your relationship, as his presumption of honesty with you had been abrogated. Thus, he felt, and reacted quite negatively in trying to destroy your honor in the community.

The process involves setting up a positive framework. You must first get to know a person before sex occurs. One of the main theories of a working relationship is that sex is a result of intimacy, not a cause of intimacy. Gay people tend to become sexual with each other before a good understanding of who the other person is

occurs, that is, knowing their likes, dislikes, needs, goals, desires, feelings, etc., etc., etc. Any one individual will "exclude" another individual for any number of reasons: too tall, too fat, too thin, too hairy, too any one thing. Included in this is HIV status: one person will have it as a criteria, yet the next couldn't care less.

So, get to know your date. And that takes time. And during that time some very real, open, and honest communication needs to take place. Sooner or later, HIV status will come up. There is your opportunity, and it is in a positive, constructive context. The result will be: 1) sex in a positive relational context; 2) no sex in a potentially ongoing good friendship; or 3) departure of the other person in which you have lost absolutely nothing, as there was nothing there to start with.

In any case, your result is positive. Give it a try ...

Dear David,

I recently met a woman who I am just wild about. I just came out a few months ago after having been married to a man for a couple of years. The problem is that she is a separatist and just can't seem to forget the fact that I had once given myself to a man. She realizes that it is all in the past now, but it still bothers her. She wants to get over this feeling so we can pursue a relationship together. What can we do?

Struggling With The Past

Dear Struggling,

The problem is hers, and for her to solve. Being a separatist is a very strong position to take, but it can cause interpersonal conflict, as now. If she really wants this relationship to work, it is going to take professional intervention. Seek out a clinical psychologist with whom she can relate to (this is most important) and find out what her intraphysic reasons are for such strong feelings. Then, she can make a personal decision as to whether or not you can pursue this relationship on the depth of the level needed to make a lifetime commitment. Good Luck.

Dear David is psychologist practicing in Nashville. His responses are limited by the information received in the letters. The responses printed here should in no way replace the need for private counseling.

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FIGHT BACK

▼ Two women Marines are serving time in Quantico Marine Corps Brig in Virginia on charges stemming from allegations about their sexuality. They are Cheryl Jameson and Glenda Jones.

We urge you to write letters urging that Jameson and Jones' convictions be overturned and that they be immediately granted clemency and released from prison. The letters should be sent to:

Major Gen. Jarvis Lynch, Jr.
Marine Corps Recruit Depot
Parris, Island, SC 29905
The Honorable John Tower
Secretary, Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington DC 20301

▼ A tremendous opportunity comes Nashville's way: the International Conference on AIDS Education meets here in September. It is ironic that AIDS educators from around the world will be coming here; a city that spends \$0 on AIDS education, in a state that condones discrimination against people with AIDS. Turn this irony into action! Let's turn this international spotlight into an opportunity to put our lawmakers on the spot!

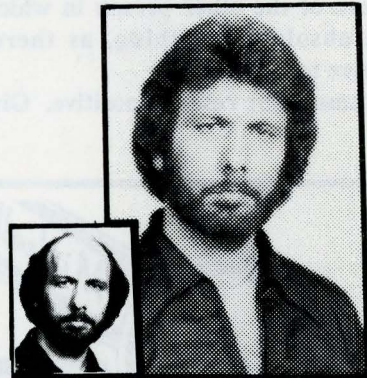
The title of the conference is "Changing Environments: Meeting the Challenge." Our challenge is to make the conference a huge success. A highly successful conference will put public pressure on the bigots who have turned their backs on the AIDS crisis. This issue is everyone's. It is about the breaking down of barriers of prejudice. It can be done. If you get involved.

There are a lot of little details that go into making a successful conference. Things like folding flyers and registering participants. Things

that take up organizers time if there aren't enough volunteers to do it. "Somebody needs to do this." How many times have you heard or said this? Nashville is running out of "somebodies". This time the somebody is you.

Volunteers are desperately needed. You can help turn the international spotlight into a hotseat for our lawmakers. Please call the Vanderbilt AIDS Project, at 322-2252, so we can take advantage of this opportunity.

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THE 1% SOLUTION*

GCN/Nashville for the last 10 months has been bringing you news and entertainment for the gay and lesbian community.

So far, so good, but why not more Nashville news and locally produced entertainment? Lack of equipment. Community Access Television has been providing all our equipment. When it works. When somebody else isn't using it. Faced with the destructive budget cuts CAT may no longer be a viable option for GCN. In order for GCN to continue its volunteer effort to produce programs, current income will not suffice. For instance, we spend over \$600 for every GCN Guide mailing; over \$500 is spent monthly on production and administrative expenses.

PROBLEM: A good professional quality camera and a recorder can cost \$10,000 . . . or more.

SOLUTION: 1% . . . or more.

* The concept of "1% solution" is used by permission from the Gay and Lesbian Press Association.

The 1% Solution is simple: you or your business pledge 1% of your August 1989 income to GCN/Nashville. Simple, painless, inexpensive (1% of \$1,000 is only \$10).

If you want to give more, so we can bring you more, we won't say no . . . just thank you. To get more and better GCN/Nashville just fill in the pledge form and return. Your pledge isn't due until September 15.

The amount you donate will never be revealed (only the total raised), and you can be listed as a donor or be anonymous, as you choose.

Yes, I want to be a part of the new, improved GCN/Nashville and pledge 1% (or more) of my August 1989 income to GCN/Nashville. I understand my pledge will not be due until September 15, 1989, that the amount I give will not be revealed and only the total raised will be publicized. I can be listed as a donor or remain anonymous, my choice.

☐ Check here if you wish to be anonymous and not listed with the other donors.

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Mail to GCN/N
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Vanderbilt AIDS Vaccine Evaluation Center is currently seeking healthy persons who are at low risk for exposure to the AIDS virus to participate in research trials which evaluate potential AIDS vaccines. **There is absolutely no risk of acquiring AIDS from these vaccines.** Persons interested in volunteering for AIDS vaccine research must meet the following criteria:

- Age: 18-60 years
- Healthy: no chronic illness
- Low-risk lifestyle for HIV (AIDS) exposure: monogamous relationship or abstinent, no IV drug abuse
- Available for 12-14 month study

In addition to these general guidelines, volunteers for the present study must have never had a smallpox vaccine. For more information about the current study, or future studies, **please contact:**

**Vanderbilt AIDS Vaccine
Evaluation Center at
343-2437 (343-AIDS)**

PRIDE AND FEAR

by Laura Tek

A couple of participants in this year's Gay Pride Parade and Rally recently expressed their concern to me about GCN's coverage of the 1989 Gay Pride Parade and Rally. They were worried that GCN's presence at the event may have "kept people away." Let me briefly try to dispel these notions and explain GCN's purpose and reason for being there.

First, Nashville has gained recognition across the United States as having a large, powerful, and influential lesbian and gay community. Seven other cities broadcast Gay Cable Network but Nashville is the smallest among them and is one of only two southern cities to do so (Atlanta is the other). For a city its size it is phenomenal that GCN not only receives feeds from San Francisco and Los Angeles, but it also produces its own local programming as well. This, along with the recent decriminalization of sodomy in this state, the first Southern state to classify it a misdemeanor instead of a felony, tells us that once organized we can accomplish just about anything we want to. Nashville's spirit is alive and growing by leaps and bounds. We felt the community, this time, was calling upon us, rather than the other way around, to help them achieve even greater pride and notoriety. For us, the recording and preserving of Nashville's Gay Pride Parade and Rally was a responsibility, not a chore.

Second, it would have been contrary to what we believe at GCN to keep our cameras inside our closets on of all days Gay Pride Day. Pride Day is different from other events in the past. We have always been sensitive when recording our community. We have always strived for the long shot, asked permission before taping and maintained a low profile when doing so. But as Diane Easter points out, "Pride Day is the one event above all others that is the exception to the caution rule, because simply being there is making a personal statement, that I'm gay and proud and I'm not afraid to show it. It would, therefore, be hypocritical to say 'I'm gay and proud, but don't take my picture.'"

Third, we were not the only medium in town covering the event. Like last year, both Channel 2

and 4 had many camera crews scattered about recording the event for their six o'clock news shows. Like last year, reporters from the Tennessean and other reporters from local mainstream newspapers were busy chasing down as many interviews as they could get for the next day's Sunday edition. Both of these media reach a much greater audience than we do. Their effect is much more far reaching and potentially dangerous. So if you fear for your exposure, then fear them, not GCN.

Fourth, GCN is an organization solely BY gay men and lesbians FOR gay men and lesbians. We want to serve the entire gay and lesbian community, not only those in the community who do attend such events as Pride Day, but for all those in the community that don't. The ones who are truly afraid of exposure by the mainstream media deserve an opportunity, perhaps more so, to witness Nashville's gay and lesbian community's power, energy, and enthusiasm. Maybe through viewing our coverage, they will not be so afraid to stay home next year.

Fifth, and finally, under the First Amendment, we simply have a right to be there and we intend on exercising that right and all other rights that we have been guaranteed to the fullest extent possible and encourage all gay men and lesbians to do the same. In the wake of possible budget cuts to Community Access Television, there hasn't been a more important time than now to speak out.

We'd like to thank all of those responsible in Nashville for making Gay Pride Day a success and for allowing us to share in the experience. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to record your commitment, courage, and community.

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COMMENTARY

BY IRA ROGERS

"STONEWALL REMEMBERED . . . BY SOME"

One night last month, I was assisting a friend selling the "Stonewall 20 - A Generation of Pride" T-shirts in one of Nashville's popular night spots. I found myself explaining the story of Stonewall to one of the patrons, who had confessed complete ignorance of that historical event. Granted, he was a bit younger than I. Nevertheless, I am certain he knew of the men landing on the moon and Woodstock, both of which happened the same summer as the Stonewall riot. Ironically, the only one of those three events which directly benefits this man's life today (aside from Woodstock, of course, which has yielded movies and record albums) is Stonewall, yet he had not heard of it! We humans do tend to take much for granted, forgetting those who fought for our freedom in wars, and in bars.

Coming out in New York City in the early 1970's was indeed a memorable era in my life. Lou Reed's "Walk On The Wild Side" was a big hit, the sexual revolution was in full swing, and much merriment was to be found in the city's dozens of hot bars and cruising places. Gay liberation was a powerful force which heartily validated our identities and lifestyles; I dare say it felt hip to be gay in that setting. It was a time before AIDS and a time when Nixon's "silent majority" remained, for the most part, silent.

Nashville in 1989 is an entirely different place and time. Gays and lesbians have lost substantial ground in the struggle for equality and dignity. The ultra-right has brought back that perennial American favorite: bigotry against anything one does not understand. As refreshing as the open, explorative mindset of the 60's and early 70's felt to me, equally frightening is the intolerant, self-

righteous climate of the 80's. And frankly, my dear, this madness has no foreseeable end in sight.

However, we in Nashville deserve to feel good about our tangible accomplishments. We have our own annual Pride Parade, a newspaper, several newsletters, an abundance of affirmative groups and services, and yes Virginia, a local cable television shoe -- GCN/Nashville. We are growing prouder despite the organized opposition to our existence. As for bringing Nashville out of the "dark ages", we have made astounding strides in the last few years. But we cannot rest.

To the young man in the bar, I say enjoy yourself. Be grateful you can frequent your favorite haunts without fear of police harassment. But if that freedom should ever be transgressed, God forbid, I hope you will remember the courage of Stonewall and help us fight.



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TO FRIENDS ON OUR MAILING LIST

An Editor's Note

GCN Guide's mailing list is comprised of folks and establishments whose names have gotten to us by one of two routes. Either they have personally requested to be on the list, or another person has submitted their name to receive the Guide.

On occasion, someone appears on the mailing list who does not want the Guide. Usually this is the result of a friend or associate erroneously deciding the other person would be interested in receiving the Guide. In one case, a woman submitted the names of her ex-husband and his wife as a "vindictive" act.

We have no control over such errors and abuses, but we do regret any inconvenience imposed on unwilling subscribers. If you are one such recipient of the Guide and wish to have your name removed from the mailing list, please contact us with your request. We will promptly comply.

It grieves us that certain individuals are compelled to approach us with hostility on this matter. Even sadder is the possibility that someone would have the Guide sent as revenge. Friends, we respect your lifestyle. Please respect ours.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees its citizens that governmental bodies shall make no law which abridges the freedom of speech. The freedom of expression guaranteed by this Amendment is one of the things that has made this country great. The freedoms to speak and to write openly have been given to everyone, not just to a privileged few.

These liberties have also been carried over to other areas such as the right to privacy and the right to live one's life free from oppressive governmental intervention. Other countries, which deny free expression and exchange of ideas, have remained socially backward, economically inefficient and violently intolerant.

Major Boner, in a cleverly politically

orchestrated campaign, has attempted to cut into our First Amendment rights and limit our freedom of expression. His proposal to cut funding to Community Access Television was a sly maneuver to woo back his estranged City Council. He believed that by cutting CAT, thereby eliminating programs his right-wing supporters oppose (such as GCN and American Atheists), he would fall back into everyone's good graces.

The strategy that the Mayor has adopted in order to accomplish this desecration of the First Amendment is a very dangerous one. He has picked only those groups that he knows cannot and would not mount a viable opposition. The elderly are one example. He knows they are not organized enough to effectively protest against his proposal to cut services to that community. Children are another example. How can children possibly band together to fight the proposed cutbacks in facilities at their community centers?

But we at GCN are organized, and with the backing of our gay and lesbian community we will employ any and all strategies necessary to fight Mayor Boner and this ridiculous crusade to curtail our freedom of expression.

Let's not allow self-proclaimed censors such as Mayor Boner and Butch Ely, and others to destroy GCN/Nashville. History has taught us time and time again that once the heavy hand of that governmental monster comes down on one group, it eventually comes down on us all, including Mayor Boner.

To receive a free monthly GCN Guide, send this coupon to:

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PINK PAGE

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SOCIAL CLUBS:

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▼ If you would like to list your business or service on GCN'S Pink Page - Please call us at: (615) 254-8250.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Through July 8 **"Women Behind Bars"**, Actors Playhouse. 2318 West End Avenue. Admission. For more info call 327-0049.

Through July 14 **Hippies, Fairies and Trolls**, photography by Lee Steenhuis from Short Mountain Sanctuary. Mills Bookstore.

July 4 **Fourth of July Celebration.** Riverfront Park, 5-11p.m. Free. For more info call 259-6397.
Boat Parade- 5:00
Entertainment- 6:00 to 9:00
Fireworks - 9:00
Dancing - 9:30 to 11:00

July 5 **Gay Parents Support Group,** MCC, 7:00 p.m. Call 831-2941 for info.

July 7 **Nashville Symphony,** Sevier Park, 6:30 p.m.

July 8 **Big "O" & the Big Band,** Riverfront Park, 8 p.m. Free.

July 11 **Nashville Women's Alliance** meeting. 7:30 p.m. at the Book

Oasis. Call 883-4833 for info.

July 12 "A Queer thing is happening at Opryland." **Vanderbilt Lambda Association** goes to Opryland for a night of food, fun and amusement. Meet at Opryland ticket gates at 6:00 p.m.

July 16 **Nashville Symphony.** Centennial Park, 6:30 p.m. Free.

July 22 **Nashville Women's Alliance Dance.** Unitarian Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd., 8:30 p.m. Admission.

July 26 **Lambda's Night Out.** Meet at 6:00 p.m. at Peabody House for a progressive evening on the town. We will go for drinks and then head to 12th and Porter Restaurant at 8:00 p.m. for dinner if you would like to meet us there. Fancy duds optional.

Nashville Cares holds weekly **ARC/AIDS support groups.** For more information call 385-1510.

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