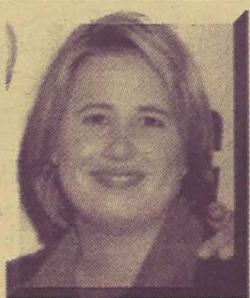


Query

Tennessee's Lesbian & Gay Newsweekly
Vol. 11, No. 13 March 27, 1998

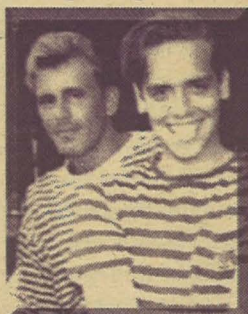
Inside our 521st edition:

Get all the best quotes from some



of our most memorable interviews from the past ten years. Find out what activist Chastity Bono had to say to us in this week's **Loose Lips**, page 23.

Coping with AIDS...



The impact of AIDS on one Tennessee family is recalled in

a story from our first year. Read **Family Reunion**, on page 7.

Loud and proud:

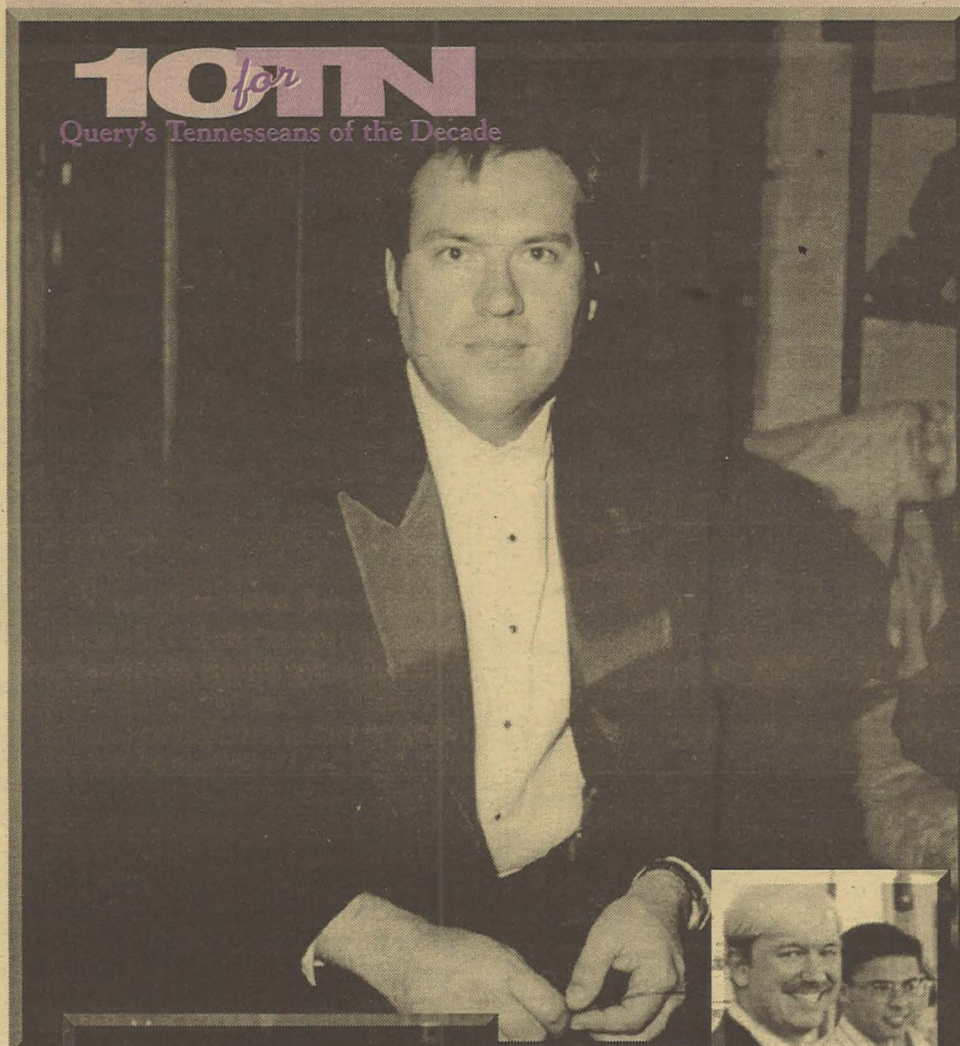
Gay men and lesbians let their voices be heard at celebrations throughout the Volunteer State. **Tennessee Pride**, on page 15.



10 for TN
Query. Celebrating our first decade.

Query: Celebrating our first decade

Tennessee's lesbian and gay newsweekly marks a milestone tenth anniversary while bringing readers the news they need to know



Long before there was a Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice, back in the days when Tennessee still had a same-sex sodomy law and years before the Human Rights Campaign ever considered holding a fundraising dinner in the Volunteer State—even before there was a Pride march in the state's capital—Stuart Bivin, then a recent graduate of Vanderbilt University's School of Law, decided what Tennessee really needed was a weekly gay and lesbian newspaper.

Working with a small group of friends and enlisting the support of a stalwart band of loyal original advertisers, *Dare* was born, with the premiere issue hitting the streets on March 23, 1988.

When *Dare* first appeared in March, 1988, it marked the culmination of months of preparation and planning. And when the first issue appeared late that Wednesday afternoon, members of the mid-south's lesbian and gay community were treated to their first professional weekly dose of news, information, opinion and features.

Now, as *Query* (as *Dare* ultimately came to be known) celebrates its first decade of publication, it's rather enlightening to look back at how it was created.

The newspaper you now hold in your hand was born—according to its founder, the late Stuart Bivin—out of a desire to “create an artificial meeting space for the community, a space in which the exchange of news and ideas would be possible”—a sort of community center on newsprint.

Several months prior to the publication of the paper's first issue, Bivin, along with Carole Cunningham and Jeff Ellis sat down around a kitchen table to discuss the possibilities of establishing a weekly newspaper.

“We felt that the growth of activism here, coupled with statewide efforts, and the growing spirit nationally following the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in 1987, pointed to a need for a lesbian and gay newsweekly published here by Tennesseans and for Tennesseans,” Bivin said in a 1989 interview to celebrate the paper's first anniversary.

Not only were editorial direction and story ideas discussed during those kitchen table meetings, but a name had to be selected. *Dare* was selected because of the famous Oscar Wilde line about, “The love that dare not speak its name.”

“Well,” according to an editorial in the premiere issue, “we *Dare*!”

And, with that “Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly” was off and running.

“Probably the first real indication we had that the paper was being well received was when we went to the [lesbian activist] Karen Thompson lecture at Vanderbilt,” Ellis recalls. “Stuart and I walked into the auditorium and Robin Kevlin greeted us and said everyone inside was reading *Dare*. Sure enough, when we walked in it looked like everyone had a paper in their hands. It was extremely gratifying.”



Among the people who have made us proud during the past ten years are these individuals, *Query's Tennesseans of the Decade* are (clockwise from top): *Query* founder R. Stuart Bivin III; sodomy law challenge plaintiffs James Tallent, Christopher Simien and Penny Campbell; Bill Turner, of the Tennessee Cracker Barrel Coalition; AIDS activist Anna Green; AIDS Response Knoxville's Michael Arvé; renowned photographer Jan Lynch, whose work has appeared in the pages of *Query* since its inception; Nashville attorney Abby Rubenfeld, who has been named Tennessean of the Year four times; and choreographer Paul Vasterling of Nashville Ballet. —Query File Photos

►CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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2 **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Query celebrates its first decade

After the success of the first issue, the *Dare* staff was confronted with their largest stumbling block to date—the refusal by Nashville's Mid-South Publishing Company to print the paper again.

"They had agreed to print the paper on a weekly basis, but seemed to have a problem when we arrived with the boards for the second issue. They told us they couldn't print that issue or any future issues," Bivin said.

With that decision by officials of the printing company, the challenge was to find a printer who could produce the paper by the Wednesday afternoon deadline promised to advertisers.

"We couldn't let down our advertisers. They had gone out on a limb for us and we couldn't fail to hold up our end of the bargain," Bivin said.

The search for a new printer led to Wilson County, home of the *Lebanon Democrat* and its publisher Yvonne Wallace. Dorothy Harrison, then-director of public relations at Middle Tennessee State University and Ellis' former employer, longtime friend and journalistic mentor, suggested Wallace and *The Democrat* as a possible remedy for the problem.

In 1989, Bivin remembered those trying times: "For 48 hours I was going crazy just trying to find someone to print the paper. I went on a wild goose chase, from one place to another, when Dot suggested I call Yvonne Wallace at *The Democrat*. She agreed to print the paper and, since then, everyone there has been extremely helpful and supportive, in spite of the fact that they lost some subscribers and had to deal with a number of irate callers because they had printed a newspaper for homosexuals."

Pyramid Publishing's initial difficulties then became big news for the state's mainstream media and stories quickly followed in *The Tennessean*, the *Nashville Banner* and in Memphis' *Commercial Appeal*. As a result, Bivin and Ellis became friends with and sources for some of the state's leading journalists, creating heretofore unavailable relationships among mainstream media and the state's burgeoning lesbian/gay media.

After the printing problem was solved, the next major issue facing the staff centered on the publication of names and the possible repercussions of such publication.

"It was a very touchy issue. I had always been taught that 'names mean news.' It opened a whole new can of worms that we were forced to deal with," Ellis said. "In 1998 people might find it hard to believe, but in 1988 when we first started the paper there were people who were vehemently opposed to us using surnames in our coverage."

In the end, the paper weathered the storm. But names remain an important part of the paper's coverage and focus.

"From a purely journalistic standpoint, if someone places themselves in the middle of a news story or a public event, they make themselves participants and like to be included in coverage," Ellis said in 1989. "But we don't just print someone's name because we know they are lesbian or gay. They must first do something newsworthy. And we know what repercussions could ensue if the wrong people discovered the right people are lesbian or gay."

Perhaps the biggest challenge faced by Pyramid Publishing came in January 1990, when attorneys for the California-based Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) filed lawsuit in federal court in Nashville, alleging that Pyramid Pub-

lishing, publisher of *Dare*, was infringing upon its trademark.

The lawsuit—filed in federal court for the Middle District of Tennessee by Nashville attorney R. Horton Frank III, local counsel for the plaintiffs—claimed trademark infringement and sought an injunction against the use of the name "*Dare*." The suit demanded unspecified damages and attorney's fees.

Bivin called the lawsuit "frivolous," claiming the suit had no merit "because our marks are completely dissimilar."

The lawsuit, however, continued. And on May 10, 1991, Bivin announced that the newspaper's name would be changed to *Query*, effective on June 7 of that year.

In making the announcement, Bivin said that the terms of the settlement forbade him to disclose details of the agreement.

In a 1991 interview, Bivin was quoted as saying,

"We're tickled with the settlement—it's even better than if we had gone to trial and won. And we'd especially like to thank

Irwin Venick and Larry Woods, our attorneys, as well as ACLU of Tennessee's Hedy Weinberg, for their support and hard work."

Thus, *Dare* was the newspaper's name for just over three years, while *Query* became the moniker known around the country for *Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly*.

Since the D.A.R.E. lawsuit and subsequent name change, *Query* has flourished: circulation numbers have increased dramatically and while that has happened, advertising revenues have gone up, helping Bivin to realize, prior to his death, his long-held dream of a self-supporting, for-profit gay and lesbian newspaper in Tennessee.

Bivin, 36, died of cardiomyopathy on July 13, 1997. He died in his sleep in the home he and Ellis, his life partner of 10 years, shared.

"I can just imagine how Stuart would be reacting to this milestone anniversary," Ellis said. "This newspaper is the result of his dreams and determination and everything we do now and will continue to do in the future is a tribute to his vision. It really took someone as single-minded and hard-headed as Stuart to bring *Query* to life. His contributions to the lesbian and gay community are immeasurable."

Today, *Query* is distributed at more than 100 locations throughout the Volunteer State and from an original circulation of 1,000 for the very first issue to the more than 15,000 today, the newspaper has grown far beyond what its founders ever really expected. After 10 years of publication, *Query* has outlasted their initial projections and has seen many competing publications come and go.

In that 1989 interview, Bivin, whose vision is responsible for the paper you hold in your hands, said: "The bottom line is that we will have a truly statewide newspaper, a statewide forum for lesbians and gay men in Tennessee. That's been the goal all along, and it looks like we'll be there soon."

"*Dare* is already one of the best, most professionally run publications in the national lesbian and gay community, especially given our limited population and resources. The challenge for us all now will be to serve the whole state, not just accept ads and deliver newspapers. We'll have to cover news effectively statewide. When we can do that, we will have accomplished our goal of providing a safe space, a link for lesbian and gay Tennesseans. That's when the real work will begin."



Celebrating an anniversary, sort of

Like most anniversaries, the anniversary we celebrate this week is somewhat arbitrarily chosen. While *Dare* was indeed published for the first time one year ago, the spirit of *Dare* was born at least two years ago—and born fittingly in the midst of a controversy surrounding the editorial decisions of another publication, Vanderbilt's student magazine *Versus*.

Editor's Note

In the March 17, 1989, issue of *Dare*, staff writer Carole Cunningham recalled an earlier incident which was largely responsible for Stuart Bivin's decision to establish a lesbian and gay newspaper in Tennessee. What follows is a portion of Cunningham's ruminations on the paper's first anniversary.

Stuart Bivin, then a law student biding his time until graduation, appeared before the Vanderbilt Student Communications (VSC) Board to take issue with a *Versus* piece that referred to the "muggers and faggots" who could be counted on to roam Centennial Park every evening after dusk, chilling the heart of the (very) young narrator. As he spoke to the VSC board (using his name and not a pseudonym), Stuart did not represent Vanderbilt Lambda or T-GALA. Lambda would not be established for

another semester and T-GALA was hardly a shine in anyone's eye at that time.

What Stuart did represent was a principle: the principle that if you're attacked—in print, or anywhere else—you are duty-bound to speak out for yourself and for anyone else who might similarly become the subject of harassment, bigotry or plain

old stupidity.

The sensation on campus—using his name of reporters at the meeting, but by giving them a signed, written copy of his statement—resulted in several letters to the editor of the student paper and dozens of obscene phone calls to Stuart's home. But my friend was as convinced then as now that the price paid from a little publicity was well worth being able to stand firmly by what he believed in and to say so with no apologies made.

Like the editor of the student magazine he took issue with, Stuart as editor of *Dare* has been under fire from time to time for his own editorial policies—fire from readers and fire from writers like me. *Dare's* quality and endurance will be measured, I think, by its ability to assimilate good criticism and to analyze and respond to criticism it deems unreasonable.

The Stuart Bivin who stood before the VSC board two years ago realized the incredible power a misused phrase, a brazen stereotype could have over the mind of *Versus's* readership. He

claimed the use of the language was harmful not only because it was derogatory but because it did not do justice to the gay community.

...The skirmishes with the readership *Dare* enjoyed during its first months in production showed how important the paper was going to be to this community, and how much it would challenge and push us all to consider where we were, where we were going, where we had been. And those battles, however ill-fought they were, made me proud to be part of something so alive that it would be so threatening. ☐

— From *Dare*, Vol. 2, No. 11, March 17-23, 1989

10 for
Query's Tennesseans of the Decade

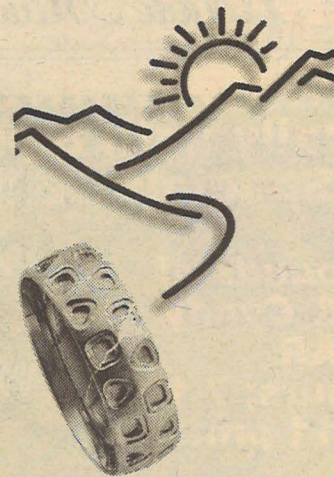
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ONE FUNNY WOMAN

Against all odds

I've just recovered from my semiannual session as a single parent.

Fortunately for me and our offspring, this is not the normal state of affairs around our house. Though it could be argued that as a housewife stay-at-home kind of mom I do take on the lion's share of, say, dirty diapers (all 7,811 of them)—still, I'm no single mom. These times on my own always reaffirm my heartfelt respect and kneeling awe of single parents.

They also reaffirm how much I would miss her if she were gone.

It's not that I'm pining for the wife when she's away. We've been together for more than ten years now and we could use the occasional break. God knows we've earned it. It's just that when she gets on that plane, underneath I always fear that I'll never see her again. That something will happen. That it was the last time.

I had a phone call this summer from a colleague. It was early one day and I was full of the minutiae of daily life—a shower here, a breakfast there, a load of laundry heading down the chute.

or the latest flick. It's not easy to stay in love. Hard even sometimes to remember in the thick of it that this is what life looks like when you get what you want, blemishes and all.

If I were to lose my wife, this would be the greatest pain of all, I think. The lost times spent foolishly fighting over the garden, over a misunderstanding, over an outbreak of PMS. The entire third year we spent furious with one another but doggedly determined to stay together. The lost time never to be regained.

I hate to imagine those feelings amid the convoluted business of death. What with insurance agents, city, county and state bureaucracy and families.

Please, save me from families in a crisis. Not that I grudge anyone their feelings, I'm far too PC for that. It's just that I've witnessed first hand how a death in the family can get everyone's knickers in a twist with ugly results. Being gay may be the final straw, but the camel's already hit the floor once you have a nuclear family-of-origin involved.

If you thought everyone was cool with your relationship with Martha, just wait and see what happens should Martha pass away.

You, too, can become a punching bag for an entire family's collective psyche, a common enemy on which to vent decades worth of suppressed emotion. For there is no death without trauma drama.

I just hope I don't have to deal with it anytime soon.

Sometimes at night during those long business trips, when our two children are safe in their beds (or more likely in our bed since they become little limpets in her absence) I'll putz around the kitchen, wasting precious hours I could be working or relaxing with-

When the phone rang I thought it was the neighbor calling about a play date for our young daughters, getting them together so that we, the two at-home lesbian moms on the street, could get together for a good natter.

Instead it was a colleague, a friend, calling to tell me that his lover had died. It was sudden, unexpected and there had been no preparation or time to adjust. Just when life should have been going on, his lover's body had failed him and he was gone.

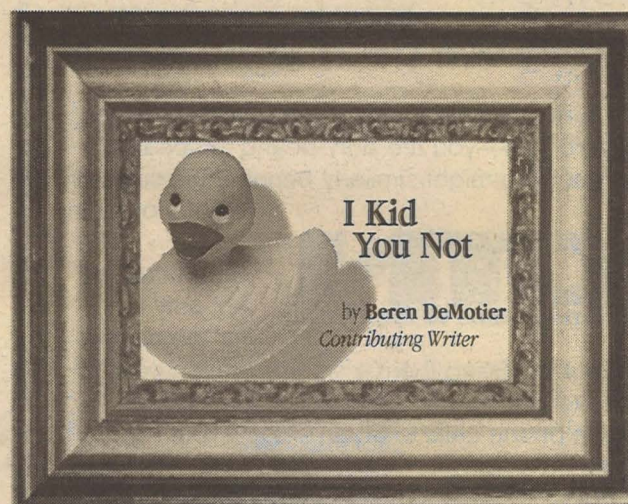
My friend told me he'd called to remind me to appreciate my wife.

Loving someone is always a risk, of course—emotionally, physically, sometimes financially. When you've found someone you trust, who trusts and loves you back, it seems like it must last forever. And if there is to be an end, a split, it will be one you can fight over, grapple with and work through until there can be friendship, peaceful separation or undying enmity. At least there is closure.

But to lose your lover suddenly, there could be no opportunity to clear the decks. You are left without knowing how to find the bills or whom to contact about the dental appointment. There is no other half who remembers the nephews' birthdays, your sister's shoe size, and a hundred little things you'd given to him for safekeeping, parts of your life he carried with him in his heart and mind. And which you always knew were safe there.


Are no longer.

And it's easy to forget what you've got when you've got it. Easy to see greener grass, easy to imagine that real love is like love in a Bronte novel



out guilt. It's funny, our evenings are spent most often with me working, or her on-call for her job, or with my Friday night standing date with the bills. And yet, I know she's there. I know that I only have to walk through the kitchen and across the dining room to her office, and that she'll be willing to drop anything to give me a few minutes.

I know that if I'm busy doing my thing and haven't poked my nose in her business, she'll end up checking in. I'll have to positively kick her out to get anything done. Hard to imagine losing that without the chance for a fight.

So tonight, I'll remember what my friend said, and I'll appreciate my wife, and give thanks for her safe return, for my parental reprieve, for our continued co-existence, for our daily beating of the odds. I'll remember. 

Editor's Note: Beren deMotier is a freelance writer who lives with her wife and two kids in Oregon. Her column appears in lesbian and gay publications throughout the country. She has been



a regular contributor to *Query* since 1995. This particular column was written in response to the death of *Query* publisher Stuart Bivin and was first published in October, 1997.

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MULTIPLE AIDS-RELATED LOSS

Finding a reason to go on

Though some may claim that the AIDS crisis is over, for those who have survived the loss of many loved ones to AIDS, the effects of AIDS continue. Because of the lingering impact of multiple AIDS-related loss, even if "AIDS ended tomorrow, there would be no end of AIDS."

Those of us who have been touched by AIDS, especially survivors of multiple AIDS-related loss, are living through a disaster that is historically unique and leaves our lives forever altered. Over time, I became angry that multiple loss was not receiving the attention it deserved. Like many Jews, in response to the Holocaust, I wanted society and history to acknowledge this disaster.

As a result, I wrote a book to "bear witness" to multiple loss from AIDS. The book compares AIDS to historic disasters by telling the story of various survivors and analyzing their experience through a psychological and sociological perspective. One-third of the book is devoted to offering suggestions for recovery that a number of survivors have found helpful.

Multiple loss has a number of distinguishing characteristics that combine to increase the impact on survivors. The cumulative and compounding effects of multiple loss often result in bereavement overload and unresolved grief. Commonly, survivors of multiple loss can look back upon their history of losses and find one overshadowing loss that continues to resonate and sometimes causes later losses to be remain unresolved.

guilt. I have never known a survivor of multiple loss who was not affected by survivor's guilt, a condition that can manifest itself in "sub-intentional suicide" behaviors such as unsafe sex or drug abuse.

The interface of families of origin and families of choice are regularly fraught with tension. Resentments may fester and contribute to depression.

The interrelationship of all these many issues frequently results in symptoms of unresolved grief and trauma. This realization is actually a first step toward healing from the impact of multiple loss. Realize that you have survived an historically unique disaster. Acknowledging this reality helps to "normalize the abnormality" of this experience.

Recognizing the symptoms of trauma and/or unresolved grief is the next step in recovering from the impact of multiple loss. Depression, for example, is a classic sign of multiple loss and may include trouble sleeping, loss of interest in formerly pleasurable activities, excessive sadness and emotional lability.

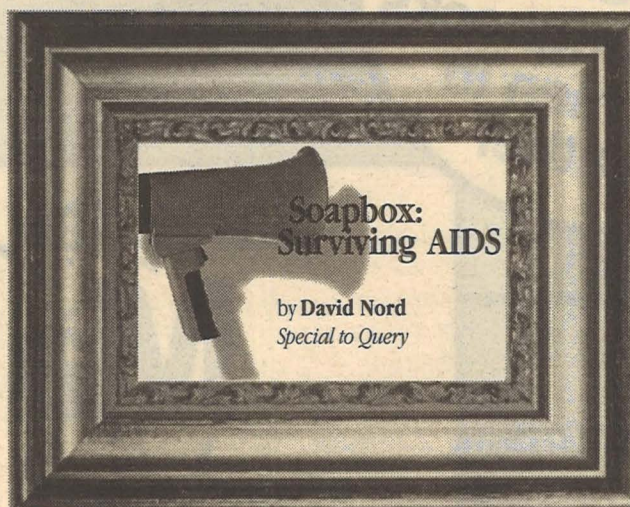
Another cluster of symptoms typical in survivors of multiple loss is a general numbness consistent with trauma. Feelings may be muted. For example, the death of another person to AIDS, even when they were a loved one may provoke little feeling. Recurrent thoughts and preoccupation with AIDS may also be a symptom of surviving trauma.

Although many of the symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) arise in survivors, their reaction can hardly be call "post-traumatic"

because the trauma is often continuing.

The good news is that there are a number of helpful ways to recover from the effects of multiple loss. Most important is finding support from other survivors. One way to find this support is to attend a group for survivors of multiple loss. In Seattle, I began a peer-based emotional support group for survivors. Nothing promotes healing better than knowing you are not alone.

Taking the risk to form new relationships is crucial. It may seem easier to respond to multiple loss



Continuing loss distinguishes AIDS from most disasters. There is great comfort in knowing that a tragedy is over, that losses are limited. With AIDS, however, losses are bound to continue. The roller coaster of hope and disappointment, so typical of AIDS, makes the continuing nature of AIDS even more challenging.

Certain characteristics of AIDS heighten the impact on survivors. The disease process itself is often grueling and painful. Further, there is an age inappropriateness inherent to AIDS. Persons in their 20s, 30s and 40s are not "supposed to" die or be suffering so much loss.

The focused impact of AIDS on certain communities increases the effect on survivors. First, the overall community of society may respond with stigmatization against persons with AIDS and survivors. Social support, normally available in a time of loss, may be unavailable or the effects of stigmatization may actually worsen grief. Second, the focus of AIDS on certain communities devastates the very people who would have normally been available to provide support.

Other issues exacerbate the impact of multiple AIDS-related loss such as the prevalence of survivor's

by isolating, a coping behavior that prevents future losses by avoiding meaningful relationships. However, this response is actually a symptom of complicated grief and trauma and does not promote healing. Be assured, it takes courage to risk new relationships in the face of multiple loss, but nothing is more important.

Responding to AIDS in a direct way that counters the negative effects of the epidemic is helpful. Volunteering may be the most successful healing response to counteract the hopelessness and helplessness that so often surrounds AIDS. Volunteering is also an excellent way to gain support from other survivors, to avoid isolation and offers a pro-active way to respond to AIDS. Additionally, volunteering allows us to "get outside ourselves" and see our "problems" in a broader context.

Surviving multiple loss demands that we take good care of ourselves. Healing from this from of grief requires work and real effort. Unfortunately, this process sometimes involves facing pain and that is why some avoid it. For those who are committed to healing from the effects of multiple loss, there is hope.

Family Reunion: Coping with AIDS

Jamie graduated from high school on a stormy May night in 1981. The next day, he packed his new car with his belongings and drove to Memphis to begin the new life that lay ahead.

To Jamie, it was the realization of a dream. Finally, he thought, he would be able to escape the stifling confines of small town life.

Jamie had known for quite some time that he was different from the other kids in his hometown. Still, he tried to fit in by being the class clown and once he even tried out for the football team.

"But I guess my heart wasn't in it," he remembers.

When Jamie arrived on the Memphis gay scene, he achieved the instant popularity that had eluded him in high school. His winning ways and charming sense of humor attracted people of all ages.

Editor's Note

Since its beginnings in 1988, *Query* has covered a plethora of AIDS issues, but perhaps none of our AIDS coverage was more effective than editor Jeff Ellis' five-part series in 1988 that chronicled his family's reaction to the news that his nephew, Jamie McMahan was suffering from full-blown AIDS. This story was the second in that series.

about in Memphis gay circles. I know, because I moved there two months after Jamie to begin a new career in visual merchandising. And for a couple of months, Jamie and I shared an apartment.

Because only five years separated our birthdays, Jamie and I were raised together, brothers than more like anything else. Yet we were quite different—Jamie's promiscuity quite different apparent compared to my then-provincial prudishness.

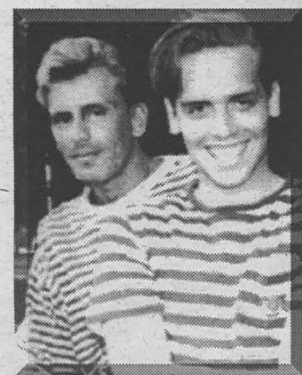
Jamie would wake me every morning by throwing open the shades, jumping on my bed and singing: "Wake up, wake up, the sun is up. The dew is on the buttercup." Honest to God.

I would throw a pillow, an alarm clock, a shoe or whatever was handy and hurl expletives at him. Then, he would begin to tell me about his sexual escapades of the previous night.

And for a while, at least, I marveled at the ease with which he went from one bed to another. I would never do that, I told myself. But then I did—a lot.

We didn't keep score, but there were times when we compared notes and names. You see, it was as if your place in Memphis gay society was validated by the men you bedded.

I offer no excuses for myself. There have been moments when I've wished those times never existed, but still I had a lot of fun during those days. That was then and this is now.



Jamie McMahan and his brother, Scott

I don't have AIDS, but my nephew does. Why? It was just the luck of the draw, I guess. Still, there are times when the guilt engulfs me and I ask God how I was able to escape those days virtually unscathed. I don't understand. Maybe I'm not supposed to.

So I deal daily with the fact someone I love dearly may die from a disease no one seems to understand. And I deal daily with overcoming the guilt I feel.

"If only I'd told him what I really thought about things," I say. "What if I'd set a better example by not sleeping around." ☐

Afterword

A roller coaster ride like no other, Jamie McMahan's struggle with AIDS continued for another four years. During his final visit to Tennessee in August, 1991, Jamie seemed quite healthy. But on his last day in Nashville, it seemed as if he might be unable to make his plane. Jamie rallied for a return to Fort Lauderdale where he died in January, 1992.

—From *Dare*, Vol. 1, No. 5, on April 20-26, 1988

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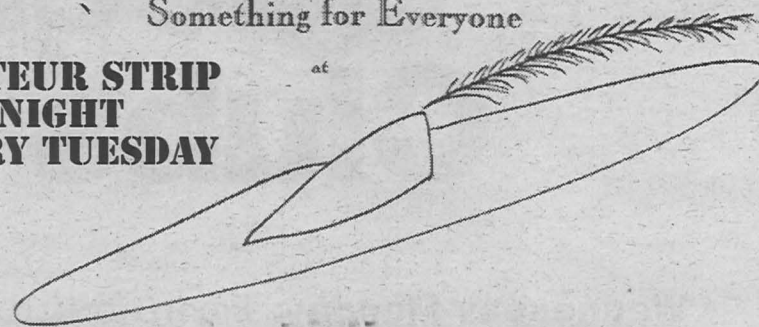
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Between the Lines: Remembering

With the end of a decade fast approaching, you tend to find yourself reminiscing a good deal of the time, remembering things you haven't thought about in ages.

Often during these past few weeks as we've been planning our "eightysomething" series, my mind has been filled with any number of ideas and thoughts—some disjointed and abstract, others clear and

connected. It's frightening how much of those thoughts are connected in some way to AIDS.

Editor's Note

Among the many series that have appeared over the past 10 years was an eight-part look at the 1980s—on the occasion of the new decade's approach. Editor Jeff Ellis wrote this "Between the Lines" piece about a friend who died during the decade. It originally appeared in *Dare* on December 1, 1989.

At the beginning of this decade little was known about AIDS. Few people talked about it. You didn't know many people, if any at all, who had experienced it personally. You probably had no idea what HIV meant.

As a result, you did foolish things. You had unsafe sex. You slept with too many people. You did drugs and drank too much

liquor. You were determined to have a good time. Damn the torpedoes. Full speed ahead.

Gradually, however, you began to read about AIDS, to hear it mentioned on TV talk shows. The litany of names and numbers began. At first you didn't know anyone who had been affected. But as the days passed, you began to hear stories about old friends, people with slightly familiar names, total strangers who had AIDS.

Like the guy in Memphis who committed suicide. His name was Mark. He was a couple of years younger than me and he was a police officer. Imagine that? A gay cop.

He had dated my nephew Jamie for several months. If they went out to dinner it was always to the Gaslight Dinner Theatre on Brooks Road, a place I'd always imagined cops would go on a date.

10 for TEN
Query's Tennesseans of the Decade

I didn't really know Mark very well, but we were friends, I guess. Not long after he and my nephew stopped seeing each other he called to ask if he could

borrow something to wear to a pink-and-green party (those preppy parties were all the rage in 1981). He ended up borrowing some kelly green pants and a grosgrain belt in the official party colors.

We laughed about him try to look preppy. We flirted with each other. And if he hadn't already dated my nephew the odds were we would have gone out together—or at the very least, slept together. As it was, we never did.

A couple of years later, someone asked if I knew Mark had killed himself.

"He had been in trouble with the police force. He thought they were gonna kick him off because he was gay," someone said.

"Yeah," another offered, "he was afraid his family would find out."

Gradually, the real reason came out. He had been diagnosed HIV-positive.

To him—as well as to a lot of people in 1982, I suppose—an HIV-positive blood test was a death sentence.

Mark decided to cheat death at its own game. So he threw in the towel.

He was the first person I knew whose death could be attributed in some manner to AIDS. When I heard that news, the disease suddenly had a face, a name. I had lost a friend.

And that's what I'll remember about the '80s. ☐

—From *Dare*, Vol. 2, No. 48, December 1, 1989

Afterword

Tennessee's first cases of AIDS were reported in 1982. Since that time, state health officials have tallied 7,323 total AIDS cases, with 8,769 HIV cases counted since January 1, 1992. Some 3,804 people have died of AIDS in Tennessee since 1982. Gay men still account for the majority of AIDS cases in Tennessee—4,399 (or 60%)—and just under half (4,082 or 46.5%) of the total HIV cases reported.

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Photographer Jan Lynch

Photographer. Artist. Humanitarian. Scamp. Priest. Friend. Jan Lynch, the Knoxville photographer, who for almost seven years in *Query* chronicled the emergence of the lesbian and gay community as a force to be reckoned with in Tennessee, could be described with any or all of those words.

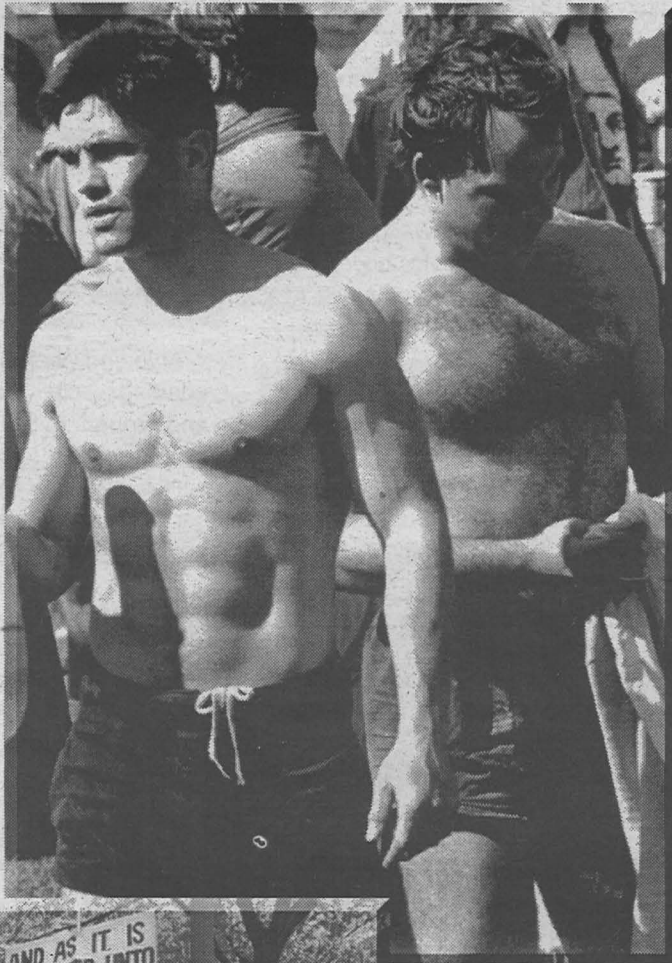
10 for
Query's Tennesseans of the Decade

Jan Lynch died early Wednesday morning, November 6, 1996, at Knoxville's Fort Sanders Hospital, his battle with AIDS finally coming to an end. He was 47 years old.

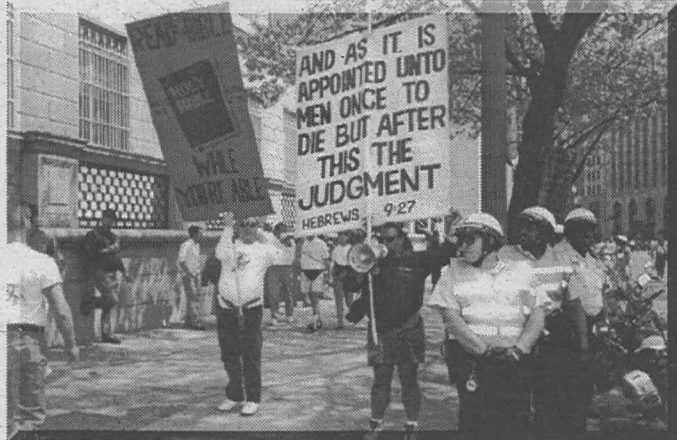
"We're all going to be survivors of this," Lynch told a reporter shortly before his death. "One way or another."

Jan Lynch's legacy—the wealth of his photographic works that are contained in many museums, galleries and private collections throughout the world—will continue to survive, allowing his admirers and friends still more opportunities to acknowledge his immense contributions to the gay community, as well as to the artistic community.

Throughout 1996, *Query* contributing writer Ed White chronicled Lynch's continuing battle with AIDS in a series of feature stories. White, who served as Jan's unofficial spokesperson during the final stages of his illness, told *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* why Lynch decided to go public with his battle with AIDS: "He

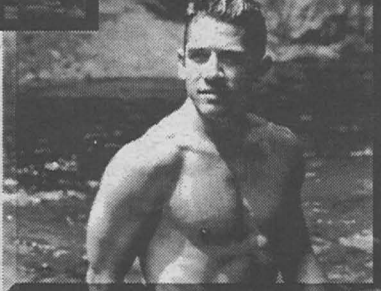


Rugby 1991



March on Washington 1993

doesn't shrink from the idea that exposure will bring censure from those who will say he deserves this cruel disease. In fact, he thinks any moralizing done in his name or on the subject of AIDS should be a lesson that we should all care for one another, that compassion is the proper response to suffering, that hope is essential to everyone's quality of life even in the face of overwhelming odds, and that ignorance is the biggest threat in the battle against AIDS."



Ron, The 1994 Posterboy for *One Night Stand*

Writing in *Query*'s April 26, 1996, edition, White talked about Lynch's background: Despite living so far from the usual cultural centers of gravity, Jan Lynch is a widely traveled man. He received a classical education at the University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, where one of his mentors was a student of philosopher Gabriel Marcel. Lynch graduated with honors in philosophy and history, and was pastor of a Greek Catholic Church.

"I'm a quiet, discreet person," Lynch said. "I never made a secret of my being a priest, nor did I ever make a point of hiding it. It just hasn't come up all that often." Archives of Lynch's work have been established at the Tom of Finland Foundation in Los Angeles and the Leslie-Lohman Gallery in New York City.



Jan Lynch
A Self-Portrait

Metropolitan Community Church of Chattanooga

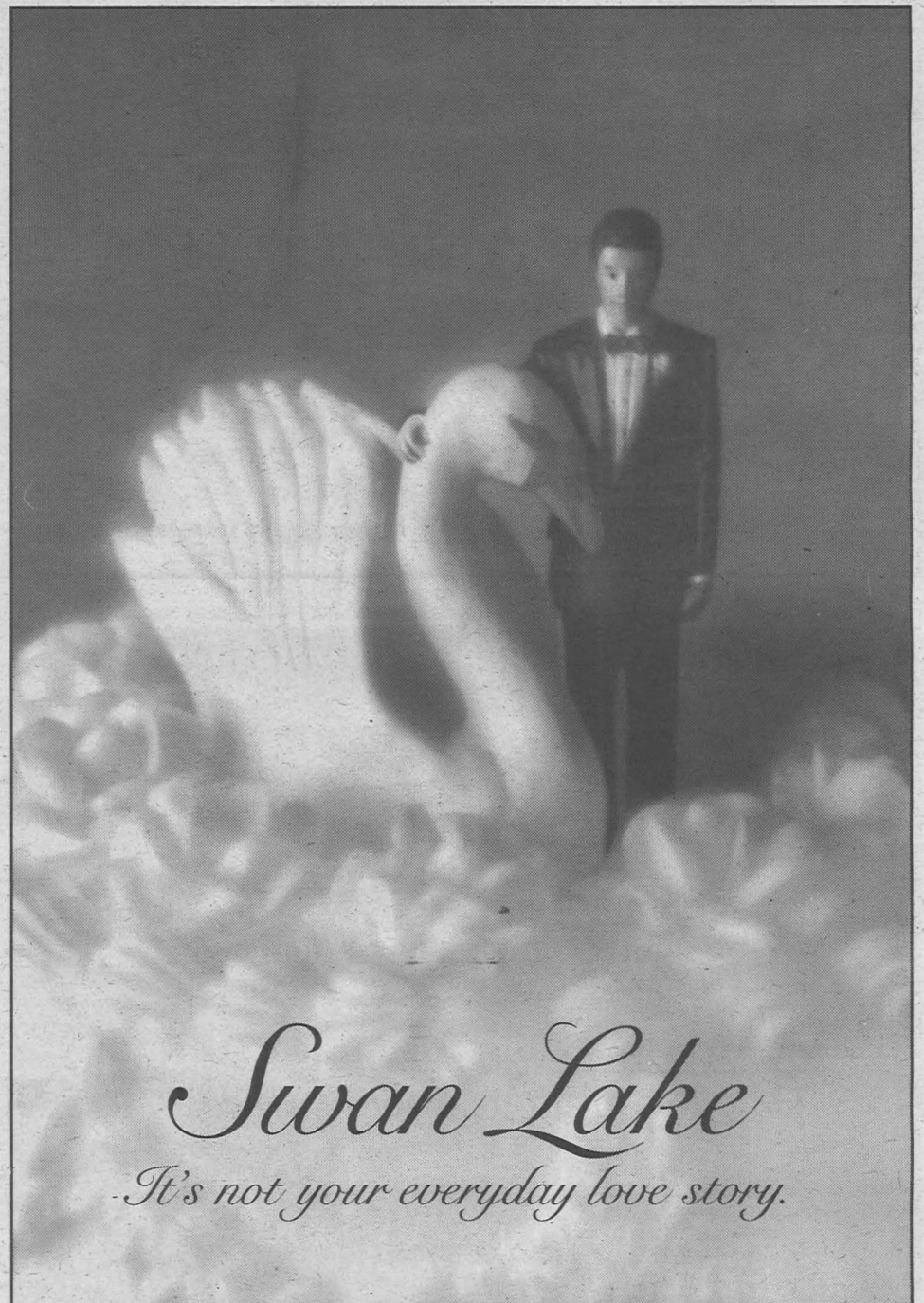
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ARK...hits the airwaves

The setting is a television studio. The director gives instructions about camera angles to his crew, the hosts banter with their guest panelists, the production assistants debate who will run to the drugstore to buy film and batteries for a still camera.

With just 45 minutes to go until showtime, the studio is fairly adither—with the hustle and bustle of bringing a live telecast to a waiting at-home audience.

But this isn't a syndicated talk show or network news show that's about to air. Instead, it's yet another example of AIDS Response Knoxville's (ARK) innovative methods of educating the public about HIV/AIDS.

Now in its third season, *ARK Second Monday* airs the second Monday of each month on Knoxville's CTV/Comcast Channel 12.

Hosted by Michael Arvé and Keith Chandler, the program continues to attract more viewers while providing vital HIV/AIDS information to the community. Among topics covered over the past three seasons are pediatric AIDS, AIDS in the workplace and the effects of AIDS on the gay male community in Tennessee.



**Alyson Hargrove and
Keith Chandler**

10 for Query's Tennesseans of the Decade

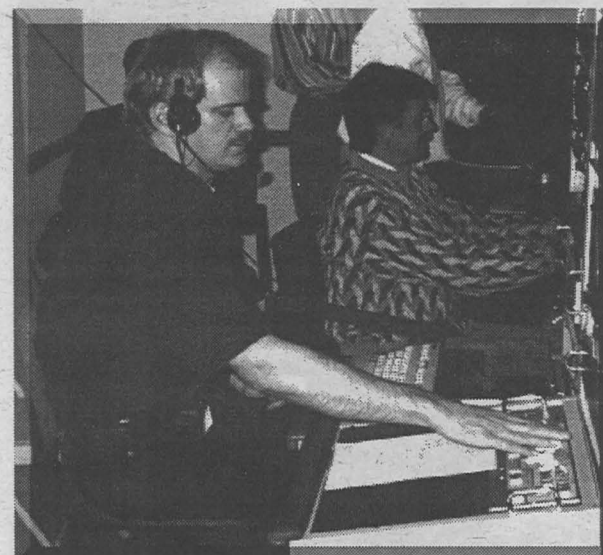
Arvé and Chandler moderate the proceedings—directed by ARK's Kevin Jeske and brought to the home television screen by a seasoned team of ARK staffers, including Alyson Hargrove, Gary Wires, Chris Haley-Walden and Adrienne Claytor—which include treatment updates and calendar listings of upcoming events that are pertinent to the community. But most of the hour-long program is devoted to the

discussion of the stated topic, featuring guests knowledgeable about the subject.

Arvé and Chandler engage their guests in a lively discussion, inviting viewers to call-in with their questions and comments.

What follows is a compelling, sometimes in-your-face examination of the impact HIV and AIDS have had on the community in general, while focusing attention on the important issues in particular.

But *ARK on the Air* isn't the only educational innovation that brings the news home to thousands of



Second Monday director Kevin Jeske

East Tennesseans. The Arvé-directed Masque Theatre is "devoted to presenting performances which promote education, awareness, compassion and empowerment as a means to overcoming a variety of obstacles to living in the '90s." The critically acclaimed theatrical troupe relates its message through the entertainment provided by a live, onstage production.

Further, ARK education specialists

take their message into the heart of the community, scheduling community speaking engagements throughout the region. Among groups who've had ARK speakers include: Carson-Newman College, the Lee Williams Senior Center, Rogers Memorial Baptist Church, the Family Life Center at Knoxville College, American Red Cross, MLK Community Center of Blount County and East Towne Mall.

In addition, ARK has reached more than 10,000 individuals through its street outreach efforts and in 1997, achieved 104 percent of its stated goal for the number of people tested for HIV.

In its third quarter progress report for 1997, representatives of ARK's education department wrote, "Even though we have already achieved many of our goals, [we are] not reasting on our laurels and will continue to provide even more outreach to the community during the remainder of the year." □



**Guests James Tallent and Jeff Ellis with show hosts
Michael Arvé and Keith Chandler**

1987 March on Washington helped to change course of activism in Tennessee

While organizers of the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights begin their grassroots efforts to ensure success, activists throughout Tennessee say the effects of a similar 1987 March continue to be felt in the Volunteer State. And, they say, the time is right for another March on the nation's capital.

Editor's Note

Most activists point to 1987's March on Washington as the beginning of today's lesbian/gay activism in the Volunteer State. Here, in a story that originally appeared in December, 1991, two longtime community members reflect on that experience.

The 1987 March "was one of the biggest highs you can possibly imagine," said Vincent Astor, president of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center. Sustaining that feeling of euphoria was important to activists as they returned to their hometowns to further the goals of the 1987 March, Astor maintained.

"The people who were in Washington in 1987 were personally bolstered by the experience," Astor said. "And those feelings

flowed out to the organizations we all belonged to."

Bob Galloway, pastor of Knoxville's Metropolitan Community Church, said that Knoxville's 1991 Pride observances could be traced to the 1987 March and the feeling of empowerment that participants felt.

"I think the March helped political activism in Knoxville," Galloway said. "The busload of people who went up to Washington felt very empowered and that came from being involved in the March."

The 1987 March followed one that took place in 1979. With some 750,000 people taking part, the 1987 March has been called the largest civil rights march in U.S. history.

Astor said 1987's lobbying efforts provided him with his best memories of the March.

"It may sound corny, but after a day of walking along the uncarpeted hallways of the House and Senate office buildings, I looked out and saw the sun setting behind the Capitol," he recalled. "I said to myself, 'I have participated in the legislative process. Welcome to America!' I did it—all you have to do is get there." ☐

— From Query, Vol. 4, No. 49, December 6, 1991

10 for
Query. Celebrating our first decade.

AIDS activist Anna Green

For most people, Tuesday, June 16, 1992 was a typically hot and muggy summer day in the Mid-South. But for Anna Green, the events of that day changed her life forever, transforming the plain-spoken wife and mother into one of the region's most outspoken AIDS activists.

With her abiding love for her gay brother as the impetus, Anna Green's transformation into an activist may have had a further reaching effect than even she could have imagined. And that is why Anna Green was named Query's Tennessean of the Year for 1992.

Taking her brother's cause to heart—Anthony McClendon said he was denied adequate treatment at Nashville's Baptist Hospital's emergency room because he had AIDS—Green set forth to challenge the institutional hierarchy of the medical establishment.

Organizing a picket and a march outside the hospital were the more public displays of her skill: throughout the summer she mounted a letter-writing campaign, calling upon then-Tennessee governor Ned McWherter, Nashville mayor Phil Bredesen, and all the local media (both mainstream and lesbian/gay) to help make her brother's story known.

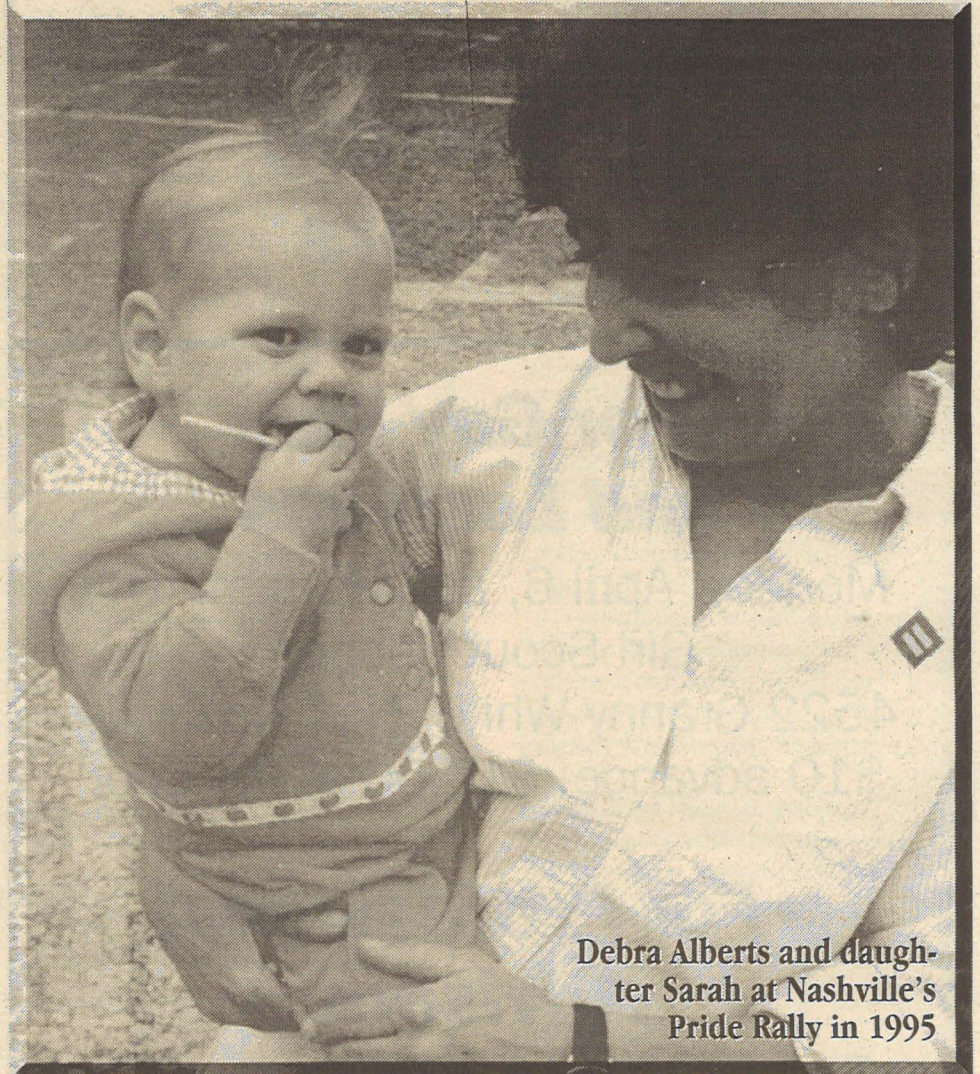
When Anthony McClendon died in October 1992, Anna Green pledged to continue her efforts in homage to his memory: "No one deserves to be treated the way my brother was treated." ☐



10 for
Query's Tennesseans of the Decade

QUERY CELEBRATES ITS FIRST DECADE

So, your mom's a lesbian...



Debra Alberts and daughter Sarah at Nashville's Pride Rally in 1995

Celebrating lesbian motherhood is becoming more commonplace thanks to what one woman called "a baby boom" in the lesbian community. In fact, more and more lesbians are deciding to become parents—either by giving birth or through adoption.

"It seems like there is something of a baby boom in the lesbian community," said Abby Rubenfeld, a lesbian mother raising a 13-month-old baby in Nashville with her partner Debra Alberts. "I don't know about the gay male population, but I think it's fascinating that this positive thing is happening to a community where there is so much death."

Editor's Note

One of the most-discussed topics of discussion among lesbians and gay men over the past decade has been parenthood. Former staff writer Arthur Kirkby talked to three lesbian moms for this story which heralded the celebration of Mother's Day, 1992.

Rubenfeld is the biological mother of Lily Alberts. She explained that she and Alberts chose the latter's surname for their daughter to emphasize their partnership.

"A lot of lesbian couples are offended by the question [of their relationships]," Rubenfeld said. "But we consider it to be educational and don't mind, but we do raise her as co-parents."

...Alberts and Rubenfeld made the decision to raise a child as same-sex partners. Other lesbian mothers, like Chattanooga's Corliss Gober, had

children from a previous heterosexual partnership.

"My daughter was 15 when I came out," Gober said. "And she was the first person I came out to. I felt like she had a right to know. I had married young and didn't come out until I was 36. My daughter is now 20."

Her daughter's reaction was heartening to Gober: "I think she took it quite well. I believe he had more problems with the divorce than my sexuality. She is a very bright kid, very open-minded, and dealing with this issue has made her more willing to experience new things."

As a result of the openness of their relationship and their ability to talk about pertinent issues, Gober and her daughter often discuss social issues as they pertain to lesbian and gay civil rights.

"I think that, as a mother, there are always going to be issues," Gober said.

"But I don't think being a lesbian makes it any harder, it's just another issue. Sometimes it is hard for me to accept her marital problems. In straight relationships there tends to be so much role-playing and I just don't think my daughter is into that. I am very proud of her."

Alberts and Rubenfeld, too, are proud of their daughter and foresee a bright future for Lily.

"I don't foresee many difficulties," Alberts said. "Children have so many issues to deal with. If there are overweight it's an issue, race is an issue, popularity and, eventually, sexuality are issues. We are very selective of doctors and schools and we are healthy about our family situation. Lily is around so many people who love her. Hopefully she will be well-adjusted and have a tolerance and respect for diversity and if there is ever a problem, we will discuss it thoroughly." ☐

— From Query, Vol. 5, No. 19, May 8, 1992

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QUERY CELEBRATES ITS FIRST DECADE

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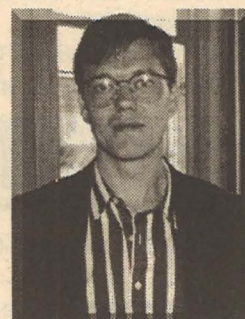
Against almost overwhelming odds and rampant apathy, members of the Tennessee Cracker Barrel Coalition in 1991 mounted a swift and strong response to the Lebanon-based restaurant corporation's announced policy of firing employees thought to be lesbian, gay or bisexual.



Because of their concerted efforts, which resulted in media coverage of the fight against anti-lesbian and gay bigotry and discrimination, *Query* selected the members of the Tennessee Cracker Barrel Coalition as its "Tennesseans of the Year" for 1991.

On August 11, 1991, members of the Coalition orchestrated a massive protest against Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores Inc., drawing approximately 200 activists from throughout the Southeast and Midwest to Wilson County to stage an action at the corporation's flagship store in Lebanon.

The attention of the media—national and regional, mainstream and lesbian/gay—focused on the Tennessee lesbian, gay and bisexual community as activists expressed their outrage at the company's policy, providing role models and a strong example for the burgeoning lesbian/gay rights movement in the Volunteer State.



Bill Turner

In a *Query* editorial (published August 16, 1991) following the protest, praise was heaped upon event organizers: "The most encouraging news from the action was something that Cracker Barrel management has no way of knowing, and it

just a few of those who stepped forward to stand up for lesbian and gay Tennesseans, and, for their work, we all owe them and their fellow organizers and protestors a debt of gratitude, and, more important, our cooperation and respect."

Perhaps more to their credit, Coalition members called upon activists throughout Tennessee to continue their efforts throughout the year, with actions staged in Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville, culminating in a protest in late November at Cracker Barrel's annual stockholders meeting. Q

Dining with the enemy

Taking their message to the Wilson County hometown of Cracker Barrel, close to 200 people Sunday called for an end to the corporation's policy of firing employees thought to be lesbian or gay.

And while an estimated 100 activists staged a picket along the perimeter of Cracker Barrel No. 2's parking lot, about 75 other activists took their demonstration inside, occupying 40 of the Lebanon restaurant's 45 tables for three hours, effectively applying an economic stranglehold to the chain's flagship store, causing other customers to endure a 90-minute wait for tables.

"The whole place is packed," John Moss, of Nashville, reported at noon Sunday. "They're telling people there is a 45-minute wait for a table."

Half an hour later, Moss said three more tables had been occupied and that other patrons had asked activists if they could join them at their tables.

The result, Moss said, was somewhat unexpected.

"They're striking up conversations and learning why we're here," he said.

"So we're making inroads with their customers."

The economic impact was apparent as car after car bearing disappointed diners left the parking lot, bound for other eateries in the area. Meanwhile, activists staging the sit-in ordered only drinks during the three-hour period.

Then at 1:30 p.m., activists rose from their tables en masse to pay their checks while chanting, "What do we want? Equal rights! When do we want them? Now!" Q

— From *Query*, Vol. 4, No. 33,
August, 16, 1991

Afterword

Some seven years later—after the story was covered throughout the media and garnered the attention of ABC's *20/20*—Cracker Barrel officials still contend that their policy was misconstrued—that they never intended to discriminate against employees perceived to be lesbian, gay or bisexual. But none of the seven individuals who lost their jobs during 1991 were ever offered their old positions back. Since the initial hoopla, the company has enjoyed consistent growth.

is news that will eventually spell the end of hatemongers getting by with anti-lesbian and -gay violence of any kind: physical, rhetorical, economic or moral. This action was organized and carried out by a new crowd. The demonstration held a sea of new faces.

"The community has depended on the same handful of people for leadership for too long. Now, a new generation of lesbian and gay leadership has sprung up with a purpose. Donna Christy, Bill Turner, John Moss, Linda Welch and Gary Boyce are

A Promise Broken

"My name is Rich and I have had numerous sexual relationships with men in my life, but now I'm sort of involved with a woman and I want to be faithful to her..."

With those words, I introduced myself to the other men who were seeking an answer to their questions about sexual orientation. For whatever their reasons, they sought a promise that they would no longer submit to their sexual desires for other men. Their problems accepting their homosexuality had brought the other eight men to

Editor's Note

Feature subjects in *Dare* and *Query* have run the gamut from personalities to social issues. In 1989, editor Jeff Ellis went undercover to expose the facts behind the sexual orientation change phenomenon. This story, which originally appeared in May 1989, was the second installment of a four-part series.

Promise, a 24-week program administered by the Nashville-based Christian Counseling Services (CCS). Located in a modest bungalow in East Nashville, CCS is, according to its informational brochures, "a two-fold private non-profit ministry offering counseling and social services...supported primarily by the Christian community of Middle Tennessee."

Promise, a sexual orientation change program, is affiliated with Exodus International, a coalition of evangelical ministries across North America, "dedicated to lifting up the ultimate hope of Jesus Christ to those struggling with homosexuality."

As a reporter, I went undercover as Richard, to learn about the workings of "change therapy," its methodology and techniques, and to learn about the people seeking change and those who hoped to bring it about. My investigation began with telephone calls to several local churches, inquiring about the existence of an Exodus program in

Nashville. But before Richard could become part of the group, he would be required to come for individual counseling for at least six weeks, according to the Mike Malloy, CCS' executive director. Later, when the group was actually formed, at least four weeks of individual counseling was a prerequisite for membership. Individual counseling was necessary, Malloy said, to determine a person's eligibility for Promise, to "make sure everyone is appropriate to the group."

Some people, he explained, wouldn't feel comfortable in the midst of a group setting, discussing the most intimate details of their lives, while others might be interested in something far different: "You can let your mind go on from there."

...As with any support group, the initial order of business was introducing ourselves and "telling how the past week has been and where you are spiritually," according to the group's facilitator.

The months preceding that meeting did little to prepare me for the emotional outpourings of the eight men searching for answers.

"My name is William and today has been a really difficult day for me. It was my day off—I'm a preacher—and I wanted more than anything to just go out and pick up some guy," the first man said. "But I didn't do it. I feel like I'm at a crossroads in my life." William, in his mid-30s and pastor of a fundamentalist congregation, is married and the father of two. He had unsuccessfully fought his attraction to other men, finally confessing his feelings to his wife, who had remained supportive throughout. He turned to Promise in order to salvage his marriage and his spiritual and religious selves.

"My name is Steve and the past week actually has been a pretty good one for me," the second man said. "But the next few weeks are going to be difficult. My divorce will be final soon."

Steve told a story of a failed marriage, the consequence of illicit sexual encounters with other men throughout the years. After his wife discovered his "other" life, he was forced to move out and relinquish his family.

"I went from living with my parents to living in a fraternity house while in college. Then we got married right before graduation and I moved in with my wife. She had a child from a previous marriage, so we never really had any time together alone. Now, for the first time in my life, I'm living by myself in an apartment," he said. "I hope I'll be able to change. I've given up hope of ever reconciling with my wife. But I hope I'll be able to have a relationship with my children...if I change."

John, a businessman in his late 40s, attributed his involvement in the group to his brother's insistence he seek help and his own belief that only through change could he know a truly Christian experience. "Whenever I see some man who I lust after, I pray for him—I pray that he'll come to know Jesus Christ as his lord and savior," John said.

Another man, Brad, a graduate student in a local college, had never acted on his same-sex desires, but was feeling tempted to succumb to those desires. "I've had a good week, nothing major has happened," Brad said.

"Well, you look good," William told him. "You look real good."

"You've really been on my mind this past week, Brad. And I prayed that you would come back tonight," Steve admitted.

The other men told stories of struggles and battles waged against sexual desires for others of their own sex. They reiterated the themes of salvation and redemption as they sought their promised land of heterosexuality...

Then it was my turn. The story I told, as Richard, was one of a young man, currently involved with a woman, who in the past had experienced sexual relations with other men. Now, hoping to marry this young woman, he sought help to eliminate his homosexual tendencies. "And I had been doing well, actually, until last Wednesday. After I left therapy, I drove straight to a bookstore and picked up a man and had sex with him," I said.

The other men, none of whom had strayed over the line during the past week, reacted differently from the way I expected. William nodded understandingly; Steve shook his head; John's face turned red; Brad seemed oddly embarrassed; and the facilitator looked as if he might hit me. "I have to question your commitment to change," he said. "I think my being here should indicate my commitment to change," I countered.

Debate ensued about Richard's actions and his fitness for the group. Finally, after the session had gone on for two hours, the facilitator adjourned the meeting. My misgivings about attending the meeting and possible discovery of my true identity were, at least momentarily, assuaged. Then, as I started to leave, William approached me: "I think I know you. You look awfully familiar to me," he said.

My undercover assignment, it seemed, may have been cut short. □

—From *Dare*, Vol. 2, No. 20, May 19-25, 1989

Afterword

Seven years after *A Promise Broken* appeared in *Dare*, I received a phone call from the man known as William in the four-part series.

He told me how his life had changed since 1989—how the change therapy never seemed to take hold and how he ultimately came to embrace his sexual orientation. He told how his supportive, loving wife had become a vicious and vindictive woman, telling his secret to all of his friends and family, forbidding him contact with his children.

As a result, William was drummed out of his fundamentalist denomination.

Eventually, William joined another Protestant denomination, prompting him to enter Vanderbilt University's Divinity School to further his education.

"I was talking to a mutual friend of ours the other day, telling him how all of my old friends had dropped me and how I missed having someone to talk to who knew me when," he said. "He suggested I call you."

William and I had both gone to Murfreesboro's Middle Tennessee State University where we shared many of the same friends. In fact, we shared the same apartment: William moved out and I moved in. We never knew each other in college, although we felt like we knew each other well.

Prior to the Promise group, we had met face-to-face just once—at a meeting of the Davidson County Democratic Party. Still, we shared a history of sorts: college, politics, friends and a broken promise.

With the best of intentions, we promised each other to get together and talk at length about life and love, but something happened and we never saw each other again. But I still think about him frequently and I hope he's happy.

—Jeff Ellis

10 for 10
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Minister James Hawk

An openly gay United Methodist minister—a 1990 graduate of Vanderbilt University's Divinity School—announced in December 1990 that he would publicly challenge the denomination's ban on the ordination and appointment of "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals."

James Hawk of Nashville, who was placed on mandatory leave of absence earlier in the year after he announced his sexual orientation to his bishop, George Bashore, and the Western Pennsylvania Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, told *Dare* in December 1990 that he had sent a letter to the board calling for his appointment to a local church pastorate.

Hawk's efforts to be assigned a church marked the first time than an openly gay UMC minister had made such an attempt.

"When I first came out as a gay man, my goal was to stay a minister no matter what," Hawk told *Dare*. "So, in a meeting with the bishop, I told him I was a 'self-avowed, practicing homosexual.'"

Hawk said the UMC stance on lesbian and gay clergy runs counter to Christian teaching: "I have a concern when I go out and, when people realize I'm a minister, have them say things like, 'I'm gong to hell and I can't do anything about it.' I hope to help people who are lesbian, gay or bisexual realize that their sexuality is a good gift from God."

More than seven years after his decision, Hawk today heads Nashville's Stonewall Mission Church. Established in 1992, SMC "was an answer to an unmet need," Hawk said.

"I had to be a pastor of a church," he explained. "Five years ago, I think we had a lot of people who were angry at a mainstream church and that brought them to Stonewall. But I don't think that's the case now. Today it's more about supporting a community."

"We started with no doctrine and five years later, we still have no doctrine. Instead, we tend to focus on how we can best serve our community—both the gay and lesbian community and the greater community as a whole."

For Hawk, his decision to challenge UMC policies in 1990 was a life-changing experience. "How has my life not changed?" he asks rhetorically. "I've challenged the church's stance, I had the opportunity to revitalize Pride, I've been able to start a church of my own that is much more liberal than anything I could have imagined ten years ago, and I've been involved in a relationship—a marriage of sorts—for the past six years."

Hawk's challenge to the UMC hierarchy was a difficult decision at the time he made it, but he now realizes "it was the best thing that could have happened to me."

"I hated having to make that decision in 1990, but I had to do it," he said.

The most significant shift Hawk has seen among Tennessee's lesbian and gay community has been in the sense of cooperation among the state's activists: "I think we're all working together better now than ever before. It's not just a few people doing all the work, but a lot of people coming together. I'm seeing more people out and about, not just at gay events, but around town. There are a lot more rainbow stickers on the bumpers of cars than there were 10 years ago."

But even as the gay and lesbian community is becoming more visible, Hawk says the community continues to struggle to define itself: "We're now getting back to a pint where we're struggling for identity. Although HIV is still with us, it is not the same crisis or disaster that we experience in the late '80s. HIV is a manageable disease and death is not inevitable. I think lesbians and gay men are continuing to search for who they are and what their community means to them."

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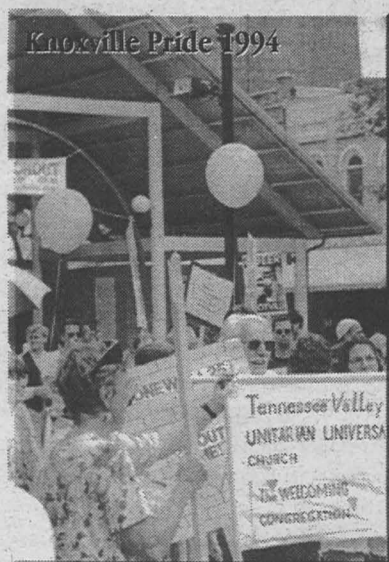
This special Tenth Anniversary issue of *Query* is the result of the efforts of countless men and women who, over the years, have worked for *Dare* and *Query* in a variety of capacities: Stuart Bivin, Jeff Ellis, Jan Lynch, DeWayne Fulton, Carlton Cornett, Ed White, Alan Stevenson, Michael Coffey, Penny Campbell, Steve Wilson, Pacer Smith, Tonda McKay, Aurora Daniels, Jacki Moss, Patti Boosey, Jill Pierce, Charles Colpaert, Jayson Chitwood, Lynn Singer, Robin Landers, Beren deMotier, Susan Jensen, Mubarak Dahir, Alison Bechdel, Carlton Cornett, Chris Crain, Robin Daugherty, Joe Hoover, Marvin Liebman, Ace London, Stacy Miller, Eric Orner, Sherre Dryden, Carole Cunningham, Deborah Burks, Ann Taylor, Harrison Hicks, Susan Bruninga, Ryan Shelley, Lisa Parham, Victoria Miklosky, Steve Montana, Joe Marohl, Jacki Moss, Perry Stevens, Karen Mathis, Rich Flowers, Chris Freeman, George Graham, Marcee Stewart, Rusel Brown, Charles Haver, David McCollough, Steven Davidson, Sandy Rousell, Jimmy Childers, Margaret Coble, Curtis Balls, Ann Taylor, Mark Lawrence, Nancy Lyn Define, Andrea Natalie, Regina Hancock, F. Lynne Bachleda, Chris Davis, David Farthing, Leslie Guerin-Haines, Michael Sanders, Cybele Mayo, Angela Bryant, Daniel Webster, Melissa Bedinger and many more...

QUERY CELEBRATES ITS FIRST DECADE

Tennessee Pride: The Volunteer State's lesbians & gay men let their voices be heard



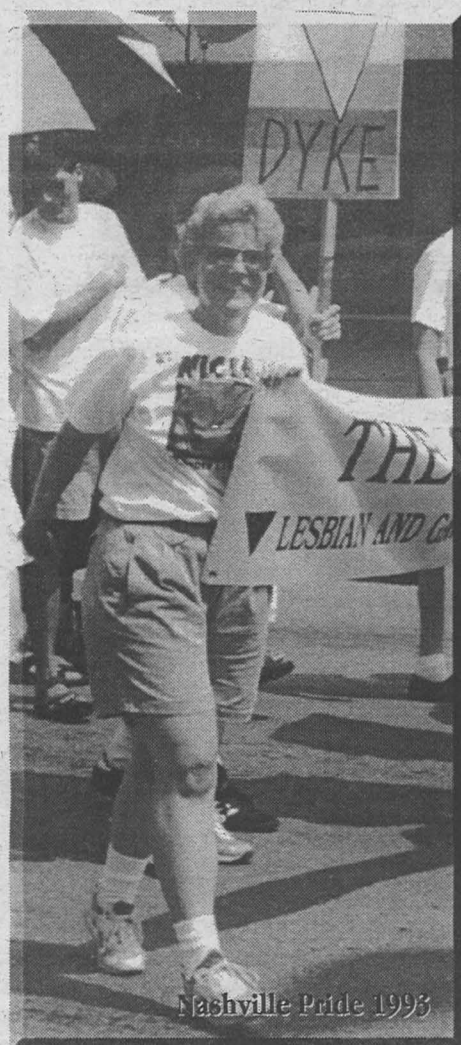
Nashville Pride 1997



Knoxville Pride 1994



Nashville Pride 1988



Nashville Pride 1993



Memphis Pride 1996

Afterword

Since 1988, Pride celebrations have been traditional summer events throughout the Volunteer State, with marches held annually in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis and Chattanooga. In 1994, activists from throughout the state gathered in Nashville for a first-ever statewide march, attracting more than 1,400 people.

The day Nashville came out...

Saturday afternoon, following the Pride '88 festival and rally, I was driving along West End Avenue and saw three small children playing with the pink and aqua balloons from our celebration.

I didn't recall seeing the children, or the man with them, in the parade or at the rally, so I assumed they were unaware of the significance of the balloons they held. They just kids playing with some helium-filled balloons and probably weren't that interested in lesbian and gay pride.

Still, in their hands they held our emblems. Though they probably can't comprehend the ramifications of what "being out the closet" means, the children were nonetheless doing their part to further our cause.

Saturday's parade, rally and festival were nothing short of miraculous. When plans first began to be made for the celebration, there were a lot of detractors—"It just won't fly in Nashville, the KKK will be there, all the religious fanatic kooks will be there, blood will be shed some Saturday in June."—but the week just past proved all those people wrong.

Arriving at Centennial Park Saturday morning was innervating—you know the way you felt as a kid when your parents took you to the county fair and you saw all the rides and the lights and the balloons and the cotton candy—well, that's how I felt when I saw the festival grounds. Thanks to the radical faeries from Short Mountain, who had transformed the park into an array of colors, I felt transported.

The camaraderie and *esprit de corps* exhibited by all the folks awaiting the parade's start at Dragon Park was a first-of-its-kind exhilaration for Nashville's gay and lesbian community. From the contingent of Unitarian Universalists to Clarksville's P-Knutts, from the people of MCC to the many straight people marching to show their support of our cause, the parade provided an inspiration for us all. The parade and festival was a courageous attempt to make our presence felt in the city.

Courage—that's the stuff heroes and dreams are made of. And that's exactly what the more than 250 people who took part showed the city of Nashville.

"We are everywhere. We will be free," that's what the marchers chanted.

And someday we will be free. Saturday's public acknowledgement of who we are, where we've been and where we're going will be the spark that will light the fires that will lead us to freedom.

We have the people to lead us—women like Penny Campbell and Diane Easter, and men like Paul Tucker and Sam Adams—and with the support of many more individuals, Nashville can effectively lead the way for lesbian and gay civil rights well into the next century.

Personally, Saturday helped to reaffirm the direction of my own activism. Throughout the week, I wrestled with the question of whether I am active because of my own convictions, or if, in essence, I am active because of my lover's activism? Now, I am certain—I am active because it is vital to survival—not only my survival, or my lover's survival, but the very survival of us all.

The three children, playing with the pink and aqua Pride '88 balloons, could well be homosexual. If so, perhaps they will remember that hot Saturday afternoon in June 1988 and the men and women who gave them the brightly colored balloons. It might make coming out of the closet easier for them.

Of course, the children could also be heterosexual. If so, perhaps they still will remember those pink and aqua balloons on that humid June Saturday in 1988 and the men and women who were marching to the park. And maybe they will help to alleviate the heterosexism prevalent in our society. Either way, we—and the children—can dream. Can't we? ☐

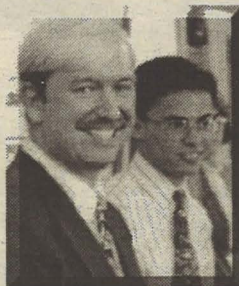
Editor's Note

Braving 102-degree heat, more than 200 people took part in Nashville's first Pride parade and rally. Editor Jeff Ellis wrote this commentary after that initial celebration. It first appeared in the June 29, 1988 edition of *Dare*.

10 for

Query. Celebrating our first decade.

Covering the decade's biggest story:



James Tallent
and Chris
Simien

For 200 years—in fact, ever since Tennessee became a state in 1796—sodomy has been a criminal offense in the Volunteer State. And it wasn't until June 10 of this year that the Homosexual Acts Law was struck down.

The statutes, ordinances and common law of the State of North Carolina, of which Tennessee was originally a part, were adopted as the law of Tennessee at the time of statehood.



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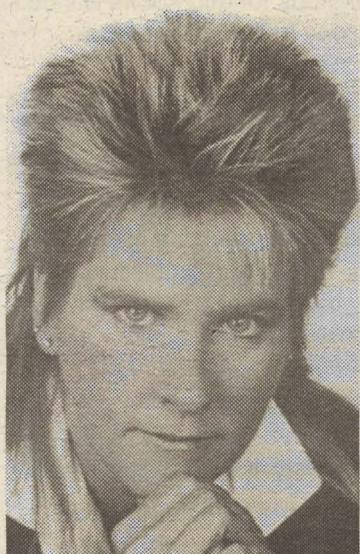
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Attorney Abby Rubenfeld

In 1988, when Abby Rubenfeld announced she would be leaving her position as legal director for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Tennesseans rejoiced because it meant that she would be coming home—to Tennessee.



In the years that have followed her decision, Rubenfeld has been tireless in her efforts to make Tennessee a better place to live for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals—and heterosexuals.

As co-chair of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance, Rubenfeld was instrumental in formulating structural changes that were enacted in 1990, thereby making the organization more viable, attracting more members and broadening the organization's base of contributors. Following TGALA's demise, Rubenfeld was among the founders of the Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice.

Perhaps most important, however, was Rubenfeld's championing of the decade's most important legal battle: the challenge to Tennessee's same-sex sodomy law. As lead attorney for the plaintiffs, Rubenfeld worked hundreds of hours to convince the courts of the statute's lack of merit.

In 1990, she appeared before a hearing of the Tennessee Sentencing Commission, urging its members to consider a repeal of the state's antiquated sodomy law, speaking eloquently and directly to the members' sense of fair play: "The law of Tennessee, or any other state, has no place in the private bedrooms of its citizens."

Rubenfeld said that the outcome of the legal battle still amazes her: "I am still amazed that we were successful in doing this in Tennessee. When I first started to practice law in Nashville in 1979, I don't think there was any way we could even dream of such a thing happening. It's a stunning victory for not only the gay and lesbian community, but for all Tennesseans because of its importance to the right of privacy of everyone in the state, whether they are heterosexual, gay or lesbian."

As a result of her dedication and involvement, Rubenfeld four times has been named *Query's Tennessean of the Year*: 1990, 1994, 1995 and 1996, when she shared the title with the sodomy lawsuit plaintiffs.

From Rubenfeld's perspective, much has changed in Tennessee in the past decade: "Certainly, the sodomy law being overturned is a milestone," she muses. "But I think there's also been a huge change in the state judiciary. We have much better judges on the bench in Tennessee now and, as a result, the courts are much more hospitable to gay and lesbian plaintiffs and attorneys."

But other changes are just as significant, Rubenfeld says: "Ten years ago I would never have dreamed that we would have had a [state senator] Steve Cohen (D-Memphis) campaigning for governor at a Pride rally or a [Nashville mayor Phil] Bredesen who would appoint a gay person to a Metro board."

"I don't think it's coincidental that all of this has happened at a time when we've had a gay and lesbian newspaper covering the issues that are important to our community. I think it's all much more closely related than many people might think."

As we enter the new millennium what does Rubenfeld see ahead? "I think the two most important areas in which we will need to work include protecting people on the job and protecting our families. We need to level the playing field in order to allow gay people equal protection in employment. And I think it's extraordinary how many gay and lesbian people have children now. That's certain to be a target of attack from the right wing and we need to be prepared."

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Subsequently, during revamping of the state criminal code in 1829, 1858, 1918, 1932, 1934, 1947 and 1982, sodomy remained criminalized. In 1989, during a massive revamping of the Tennessee criminal code, the Tennessee Sentencing Committee

The successful legal challenge to Tennessee's antiquated same-sex sodomy law

went even further, singling out lesbians and gay men. The commission said that sexual acts between two persons of the same sex was a criminal act, dropping the state's crimes against nature statute.

Instead, "homosexual acts" became a Class C misdemeanor, making it unlawful for "any person to engage in consensual sexual penetration... with a person of the same gender."

It was that law—the Homosexual Practices Act—that prompted the lawsuit that was filed in May 1988 by attorneys for the five plaintiffs.

What follows is a record of important events that followed the circuitous route through the courts to eventually overturn Tennessee's same-sex specific sodomy law:

► **September 1988:** Proposed revisions in the Tennessee Criminal Code would eliminate language regarding heterosexual "crimes against nature," but would specifically criminalize all sexual acts between two persons of the same sex. The revision of the law was included in a report directed to the state legislature by a subcommittee of the Tennessee Sentencing Commission. The subcommittee, according to chair David Raybin, was simply following the mandate of state lawmakers to "modernize rather archaic language" that exists in the criminal code. Since the crimes against nature statute was rarely invoked against heterosexuals, TSC members argued for a law more specific in language if the state plans to enforce the ban on homosexual acts.

► **October 1988:** Proposed revisions in the Tennessee Criminal Code would classify "homosexual acts" and would reduce such "crimes" from a felony (punishable by a prison term of 5 to 15 years and a fine not to exceed \$10,000) to a Class C misdemeanor (punishable by a jail term of not more than 30 days, a fine of not more than \$50, or both). "The revision would eliminate crimes against nature," Sue B. Cain, Cain, executive director of the Tennessee Sentencing Commission, told *Query*. "But it does leave homosexual acts as a crime."

► **February 1989:** Tennessee legislators introduce a bill that would "eliminate archaic language" from the state's criminal code, including revisions in the state's sodomy law, as recommended by the Tennessee Sentencing Commission.

► **May 1989:** By a 29-3 margin, the Tennessee Senate approves revisions in the state's criminal code. "I don't foresee any problem with the governor [Ned McWherter] signing the bill into law," Cain told *Query*. "he has already said he is in favor of the bill's passage."

► **June 1989:** Members of the Tennessee House of Representatives give their approval to the changes in the state's criminal code, paving the way for McWherter's signature to transform the revisions into state law.

► **November 1, 1989:** Sweeping changes in the Tennessee Criminal Code go into effect, including the Homosexual Practices Act, which specifically bans sexual acts between two persons of the same gender. Tennessee becomes one of just seven states to have same-sex sodomy laws on the books.

► **May 26, 1993:** Attorneys for six Tennesseans file suit in Davidson County Circuit Court to mount a legal challenge to the Homosexual Practices Act. Named as defendants in the suit are Tennessee governor Ned McWherter, state attorney general Charles Burson, and Torry Johnson, district attorney for Davidson County. The six plaintiffs are seeking an order declaring the Homosexual Acts Statute to be in violation of the Tennessee constitution, and an order "permanently enjoining the enforcement of the Homosexual Acts Statute."

The plaintiffs include Nashville activist Penny Campbell; Chadwick Freeman Presswood, a student at the University of Tennessee School of Law in Knoxville; James Tallent, a registered nurse in Knoxville; and Christopher Simien, a graduate student in psychology at Vanderbilt University. Also named as plaintiffs are John Doe, a resident of Rutherford County, and Jane Roe, from Davidson County.

► **January 7, 1994:** The six plaintiffs in the legal challenge to Tennessee same-sex-specific sodomy law are named *Query's* Tennesseans of the Year for 1993. The lawsuit continues its way through the byzantine legal system guided by a team of attorneys who are among the Tennesseans who made us proud in 1993: Jacqueline Kittrell of Knoxville, Susan McKenzie of Memphis, and Abby Rubenfeld and Christine Freeman of Nashville.

► **November 1994:** The deadline is established for filing experts' affidavits in the lawsuit.

► **November 21, 1994:** Davidson Circuit Court judge Walter Kurtz says he will take under advisement a request by deputy state attorney general Jerry Smith to dismiss the lawsuit challenging Tennessee's homosexual acts law. Kurtz heard arguments in his Nashville courtroom, prompting Abby Rubenfeld, lead attorney for the plaintiffs, to tell *Query* that she is "cautiously optimistic" about Kurtz's upcoming ruling.

► **December 7, 1994:** Kurtz denies the state's motion for summary judgment requesting dismissal of the lawsuit. Kurtz's ruling means that attorneys for the state must show a "compelling" interest on the part of the state to insinuate itself into the privacy of its citizens. In a 20-page ruling denying the state's request for dismissal, Kurtz wrote that the individual's right to privacy has precedence over the state's right to enforce its same-sex sodomy law. "Private sexual activity between consenting adults of the same sex is protected by the state constitutional right of privacy," he wrote. Kurtz instructs state's attorneys to find a "compelling" reason why the law should not be struck down. As it now stands, Kurtz's ruling will have precedence only in Davidson County.

► **December 16, 1994:** Kurtz continues the trial date to January 20, following a motion by Rubenfeld, asking for summary judgment in the case.

► **January 20, 1995:** A packed courtroom of interested observers listen as attorneys for the state—who present an affidavit from Charles Socarides a New York psychiatrist who maintains that homosexuality is a mental disorder—argue in favor of the sodomy statute. Kurtz denies a motion from June Griffin, a preacher from Dayton, who seeks to intervene in the case because, she says, her "interests were not being represented."

► **February 2, 1995:** Kurtz rules Tennessee's Homosexual Practices Act invalid because it violates citizens' right to privacy guaranteed by the state constitution. Kurtz says attorneys for the state have failed to show a "compelling interest" to justify the law's continued enforcement. While Kurtz's ruling makes history in Tennessee, it does not extend to the rest of the state. For the sodomy law to be stricken from the books, Kurtz's decision must be appealed to the Tennessee Supreme Court.

► **April 1995:** Attorneys for the state of Tennessee file an appeal of Kurtz's ruling. Rubenfeld announces plans to file a motion asking that the appeal be heard by the Tennessee Supreme Court. Due to a change in legal procedure adopted in 1994, the appeal is headed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

► **November 17, 1995:** The next step in the now years-long legal challenge to Tennessee's same-

sex sodomy law moves forward, as a panel of judges from the Western Section of the Tennessee Court of Appeals hears arguments in the case.

► **January 26, 1996:** A three-judge panel of the Tennessee Court of Appeals affirms Kurtz's February 1995 ruling that the state's Homosexual Practices Act is invalid, holding that "an adult's right to engage in consensual and noncommercial sexual activities in the privacy of that adult's home is a matter of intimate personal concern which is at the heart of Tennessee's protection of the right to privacy."

► **February 9, 1996:** A spokesperson for the state attorney general's office tells *Query* that the office will ask the Tennessee Supreme Court to review the Court of Appeals' January 26 ruling that upheld Kurtz's 1995 decision. "We are going to seek

tionality of a criminal statute of general application merely by asserting that he has violated the statute, intends to continue to violate it, and fears the hypothetical consequences that might follow discovery of his violations.

► **April 15, 1996:** Attorney Abby Rubenfeld files the "plaintiff's answer" to support of application to appeal, asking members of the state Supreme Court to review the Court of Appeals' February ruling in the case of *CAMPBELL V. SUNDQUIST*. The plaintiffs' answer is in support of the application to appeal the lower court ruling that earlier was filed by the attorney general's office.

► **June 10, 1996:** The five members of the Tennessee Supreme Court issue an order which states: "Upon consideration of the application to appeal and

Sodomy lawsuit plaintiffs

Had it not been for the perseverance, the determination and the courage displayed by the plaintiffs and the attorneys involved in the legal challenge to Tennessee's Homosexual Practices Act, sexual acts between two persons of the same sex would remain a criminal offense, punishable by a \$50 fine or imprisonment of up to 30 days.

Penny Campbell, Timothy Huey, Christopher Simien, James Tallent and Jane Doe twice were named Tennesseans of the Year by *Query*—in 1993 and 1996. In November 1996, the group of individuals were honored by the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee as its Bill of Rights Award recipients.

Despite the almost four years of litigation and the glare of media attention, the plaintiffs who talked to *Query* told the newspaper that they would be more than happy to take up the cause once more—if duty calls again.

"It's absolutely wonderful to know that we can challenge the system and make our voices heard," said Tallent, a registered nurse at Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee in Knoxville. Since the lawsuit was filed in 1993, Tallent says he has been heartened by the "tremendous support" he's gotten from friends, family and co-workers as the suit made its way through the courts.

"The outcome of this lawsuit shows that our complaint was a valid issue," he said. "We showed the people of Tennessee that we, the gay men and lesbians of this state, have had to live with the fear of possibly being arrested for having sex. We should all be glad that the necessary steps were taken to rectify that situation."

Nashvillian Penny Campbell, a longtime community activist, said the lawsuit's outcome has made her more hopeful of what the future holds.

"I feel hopeful that this will lead to future legislation that will further protect our civil rights," Campbell said. "I think it's also important to note that with this decision, the Homosexual Practices Act won't be used in custody cases to unfairly take children from gay or lesbian parents."

Would they go through it all again? "Definitely," said Tallent. "And I would want to be more vocal, to speak out in the media more if we had to do it again."

"Of course," Campbell replied. "I'd do whatever it took to get the job done. I feel very fortunate to have been a part of this."



10 for
Query's Tennesseans of the Decade

review by the Tennessee Supreme Court," said press spokesperson Sharon Curtis Flair. "This will be a discretionary review and the Supreme Court is not required to accept the case."

► **March 26, 1996:** The Tennessee Attorney General's office officially files its request for review by the Tennessee Supreme Court. Among the questions presented for review for permission to appeal are: Whether the Constitution of Tennessee guarantees to adults the fundamental right to engage in private, noncommercial homosexual sodomy, and whether a person can acquire standing under the Tennessee Declaratory Judgment Act to challenge the constitu-

the entire record in this case, the application to appeal is denied with the recommendation that the Court of Appeals opinion be published." What this means, Rubenfeld says, is the homosexual acts law is now "unconstitutional and unenforceable." Rubenfeld calls the development "the end of a really long road and the start of a really bright beginning."

"The Supreme Court rejection of the application for appeal from Tennessee Attorney General Charles Burson's office 'has the same precedential value as a Supreme Court opinion,'" Rubenfeld explains.

— From *Query*, Vol. 9, No. 23, June 17, 1996

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— From Query, Vol. 9, No.
18, May 3, 1996

Transsexual kicked out

A transsexual student in Tennessee State University's two-year nursing degree program says she was "kicked out" of school because someone complained of her transgender status.

Tracy Quiring, a student at the Nashville institution, was informed via a memorandum from nursing school dean Marion Anema, dated October 31, that she will not be able to pursue her nursing education "at this time."

According to the memo from Anema, Quiring will not be allowed to continue her studies because "the institution where you were scheduled for clinical experiences this fall will not permit you to continue your clinical rotation because of a gender issue."


Quiring, who began her studies at TSU on August 26,

had started her clinical rotation at Nashville's Park View Hospital on Friday, October 18, as an operating room observer.

"I expected prejudice and discriminatory remarks when I started the program," Quiring admitted. "And I got some from general students on campus, but I got none from within the nursing program. I thought everything was going to be fine. I thought I had mapped out my life for the next several years, but now, because of one narrow-minded person, all those plans are up in the air."

Quiring is still in the preoperative phase of her gender reassignment process, having had what she referred to as "some minor surgeries."

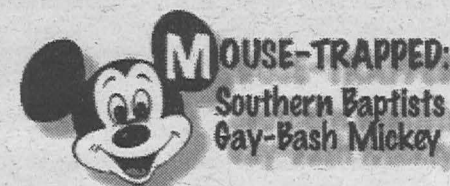
She had planned to have final reassignment surgery next summer "which would be the earliest I could do it on the schedule I had planned for school and clinical rotations."

However, those plans are now on hold because of the actions taken by TSU nursing officials. 

— From Query, Vol. 4, No. 45, November 8, 1991

Boycott shows little effect thus far on Disney

Books, records, movies, licensing agreements, a major television network, a cable channel, newspapers, TV stations and theme parks from California to Japan, Florida to France—those are just a few of



the products or holdings of The Walt Disney Company, the Burbank, California-based entertainment conglomerate that has been targeted by members

Nashville Pride 1997

Tennessee sixth state to ban gay and lesbian marriages

Tennessee's Republican governor Don Sundquist is set to sign into law legislation approved last week by the state legislature that bans marriages between two people of the same sex.

Tennessee thus becomes the sixth state to specifically ban same-sex marriages.

The Illinois legislature last week also approved similar legislation and Republican governor Jim Edgar is expected to sign the bill into law next week.

States which have already banned same-sex marriages are Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, South Dakota and Utah.

Alabama is poised to add its name to the list, following a vote by its state senate last week. Alabama's House of Representatives is expected to give quick approval to the legislation later this week. Similar bills have been defeated or vetoed in 13 other states.

Following action last Tuesday by members of the Tennessee House of Representatives (which approved the legislation by a 91-1 vote), state senators Friday voted 31-0 to put their stamp of approval to the bill.

The vote came in the waning hours of the 1996 legislative session as state lawmakers hurried to get all their business done within the time limits set by state law.

Sundquist told reporters that he will sign the bill into law when it reaches his desk.

Rep. Larry Turner, a Memphis Democrat, was the lone holdout in the House of Representatives' vote on the measure.

In the Senate, Steve Cohen (D-Memphis) and Thelma Harper (D-Nashville) abstained from voting on the measure, just as they had done in an

The people, places and events that shaped our lives during the past ten years



AIDS Walk Knoxville, 1992

of the Southern Baptist Convention for a boycott.

In Tennessee, however, where the 13-million member SBC has its headquarters, Disney's only business presence is the popular Disney Stores, one in Memphis and two in Nashville.

A sales clerk at the Disney Store in Memphis, located in Oak Court Mall, said that business there had been unaffected by the boycott.

Citing Disney's extension of health care and other benefits to the same-sex partners of company employees, the Southern Baptists overwhelmingly voiced their approval of a boycott. But can they pull it off?

Entertainment analysts, stock brokers—even President Clinton—say a boycott will have little, if any, effect on Disney. In fact, save for a minor slip-page of one percent in the price of shares in

Disney stock, the company remains one of the more consistent performers on the New York Stock Exchange, according to a spokesperson for Merrill Lynch's New York City office.

Jessica Reif, entertainment analyst for Merrill Lynch, told *Query* that the Southern Baptist boycott of Disney, barely two weeks old, has shown no signs of success and very little across-the-board support from even the most conservative of Americans.

"Disney is a very well-known company and its stock performs consistently," she said.

"If this boycott is actually carried out, it should have little or no longterm financial effect on the company."

—From *Query*, Vol. 9, No. 26, June 28, 1996

Teachers' head: gag gay and lesbian history

Despite some claims to the contrary, teachers are not deserting the Tennessee Education Association by the hundreds because of a resolution adopted this summer at the National Education Association convention that proclaims October as Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual History Month.

In fact, TEA membership rolls show more members are on the rolls now than were listed at the same time last year.

According to TEA membership director Elaine Jewett, current membership in the organization stands at close to 43,000, out of the state's estimated 50,000 teachers.

TEA president Kathy Woodall, who failed to return repeated phone calls from *Query*, told the *Nashville Banner* earlier this week that her organization will lose about 1,000 members because of the vote on the resolution.

"It's caused a lot of our continuing members some concern," Woodall told *The Banner*.

"A lot of teachers have taken a lot of heat. I kind of anticipate, just from the calls I first received, that maybe it was more widespread than it turned out to be."

Opposition to the NEA resolution in Tennessee is largely the result of a fundraising letter from the Concerned Women of America—signed by CWA president Beverly LaHate—in which the NEA, the

largest teachers' union in the country, was attacked for joining more than 100 organizations, historians and elected officials who have endorsed the gay and lesbian history project.

According to Keith Ericson, manager of communications for TEA, Tennessee delegates were "almost unanimous" in their opposition to the resolution that was approved by NEA delegates this summer.

Ericson told *Query* that "we knew there would be a membership drop as a result of this controversy, but figures show a gain over last year."

—From *Query*, Vol. 9, No. 26, June 28, 1996

Adams 'prime suspect' in Overstreet murder

Metro Nashville homicide detectives announced Monday that David Adams has become the prime suspect in their investigation of the slaying last March of his lover, Aaron Overstreet.

That revelation was just one part of the information authorities shared with reporters during a press conference held at Nashville's Criminal Justice Center.

Police also revealed that an attack on Adams last April was a apparent hoax—set up by Adams and an accomplice—and that during the past several months Adams had allegedly been involved in a counterfeit check scam operating throughout Middle Tennessee and South Central Kentucky.

"When we began investigating the murder of Aaron Overstreet, we had no leads," said Murder Squad detective Mike Smith.

"We talked with Mr. Adams soon after the body

was identified, but he refused to cooperate after that."

Smith said that authorities considered Adams a suspect at the time, but "couldn't go forward due to a lack of evidence."

—From *Dare*, Vol. 3, No. 51, December 24, 1990

DeGeneres' coming out episode scores with viewers

In a funny, touching, frank episode aired on ABC affiliates across the country—save for one holdout in Birmingham—sitcom star Ellen DeGeneres and her fictional alter ego Ellen Morgan came out of the closet with a bang last week.

In fact, the April 30 episode of *Ellen*—in which the lead character finally acknowledged her sexual orientation after months of speculation, media frenzy and enough controversy to keep Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell and company foaming at the mouth for months—became the network's highest-rated program of the year, claiming a 23.4 rating and the number one spot among all the programs on broadcast TV last week.

In Nielsen's overnight ratings, which tracks viewer habits in the top 37 broadcast markets in the country, *Ellen* scored even higher: a 26.5 rating and a 37 percent share of the TV audience.

"You can safely say the network is pleased with the performance," said ABC spokesperson Anne Riccitelli.

But *Ellen*, the series is still on the bubble—ABC executives have yet to say if the show will return next season (although it's expected to be renewed) and the ratings for the final two episodes may determine the show's fate.

Should *Ellen*'s coming out prove to be more than a ratings ploy and the final two episodes also fare well with viewers, the controversial decision could solidify the show's standing with viewers and advertisers.

Prior to the history-making coming out episode, *Ellen* ranked 37th for the season, with an average rating of 9.7.

Just two years ago, *Ellen* was the 13th-ranked show on television.

—From *Query*, Vol. 10, No. 9, May 9, 1997



Chattanooga: Gay and lesbian alliance forms

Seeking to effect a change in the quality of life and to challenge the mainstream community's perceptions of homosexuals, a group of lesbian and gay activists met in Chattanooga last Friday night to form the nucleus of a new organization.

Calling themselves the Chattanooga Gay and Lesbian Alliance, the dozen women and men met to discuss the pros and cons of organizing and to plan a recruiting drive for new members.

"I think it's time we let Chattanooga know we're here," said Alliance chair Andrew Gilfoil. "People in Chattanooga have waited long enough. I really think it's time to do something."

—From *Dare*, Vol. 2, No. 47, November 24, 1989

Talk show hell: Jones, Amedure and Schmitz

On Thursday, March 9, a 32-year-old gay man named Scott Amedure was gunned down in his suburban Detroit living room.

The man who now stands accused of killing Amedure—and who confessed to the slaying in a 911 phone call just minutes after the horrible incident—is a 24-year-old self-avowed heterosexual named Jonathan Schmitz.

Just three days earlier, Amedure had admitted to a "secret crush" on Schmitz during a taping on *The Jenny Jones Show*, the nationally syndicated daytime talk show that now ranks third in the Nielsen ratings among such programs.

"You have to be flattered," Jones reportedly said to Schmitz after Amedure was identified as his secret admirer.

"Yes, but I'm a heterosexual," Schmitz replied. "I'm not interested."

Schmitz said he was surprised and embarrassed by Amedure's very public admission of romantic and sexual interest, and told investigators that he had felt "almost sick to my stomach" by the revelation.

According to authorities, three days after the taping, Schmitz bought a shotgun and ammunition (telling the salesperson he was planning a hunting trip with his father) and drove to Amedure's mobile home and shot him twice in the chest.

The episode has become the fodder for numerous mainstream news accounts, commentaries and editorials and will likely be considered as a talk

show topic itself in the not so distant future.

Most of those mainstream accounts have focused on Schmitz's reaction of acute embarrassment and humiliation instead of seeing the incident for what it really is: yet another violent, homophobic attack on an openly gay man.

—From *Query*, Vol. 8, No. 12, March 24, 1995



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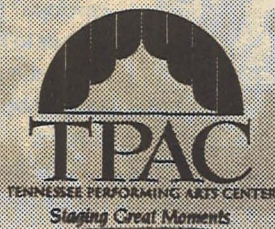
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Choreographer Paul Vasterling

Paul Vasterling insists, in his typically humble and even a little self-deprecating way, that his burgeoning career as a choreographer—after an already stellar career as a dancer—was the result of his “being in the right place at the right time.”

“I never really knew I could make a career out of it,” he admits.

In fact, Vasterling came to Nashville Ballet in 1989, dancing for two years before a back injury forced his retirement. Subsequently, he became an instructor at the School of Nashville Ballet and it was there,

under Edward Myers' guidance, that he was given his first opportunity to choreograph.

“Eddie allowed me to choreograph a piece for the students of the school which led to a workshop with the company,” he explains. “It was very well-received and he encouraged me to choreograph more.”

Now, with artistic director Benjamin Houk on board at Nashville Ballet, Vasterling's work is showcased even further. In the 1997-98 season along, Vasterling's stunning reinterpretation of *Firebird* was the highlight of the Fall Series, while the revival of his *This Heart*, set to the music of Nanci Griffith, was spotlighted in the winter series.

Vasterling's work tends to be very personal, perhaps even introspective: “How does this relate to me? How does this relate to my life? Those are the questions I ask myself when coming up with a concept.”

Vasterling tends to be inspired by “interpersonal relationships—how people relate to each other.” As a choreographer, Vasterling excels in bringing to the stage a fresh vision that is at once somewhat subversive and completely accessible to audiences.

Witness his *Firebird*: Set in a contemporary utopia, it featured the variety of relationships found in real life, from the traditional boy/girl pairings most often seen in ballets to the refreshing use of same-sex couples to interpret his vision.

Yet while *Firebird* was brought so vividly to life in its contemporary setting, Vasterling realizes it remains a work in progress: “After the performance last fall something was pointed out to me that I'll definitely change the next time it is performed.”

Community and a sense of building a consensus is the theme of Vasterling's *Firebird* and as the

dancers create their own vision of Utopia they express their acceptance and love of one another. At the very end, they gesture to the audience, inviting the onlookers to join them in their utopia paradise.

However, while same-sex couples were a part of the piece's earlier movements, in the finale the dancers were paired in standard boy/girl couples.

“They were supposed to be in Utopia, but the message was that Utopia didn't allow same-sex couples,” he fears, pledging to restage the ending for future performances.

But Nashville Ballet's traditionally conservative audiences might not have noticed this new view of life, so seamless was Vasterling's staging of the piece—and so enraptured were they by his superb choreography and completely fresh restaging of a classic work.

“Dance is metaphorical,” Vasterling says. “It's not literal.”

And it is that metaphorical nature of his art that allows the choreographer to bring his vision to the dancers who will perform the piece.

“You have to be able to communicate to the dancers what you're striving for,” he explains. “I tend to work from a very emotional place and so I often tell the dancers how this relates to me and to their lives, as well.”

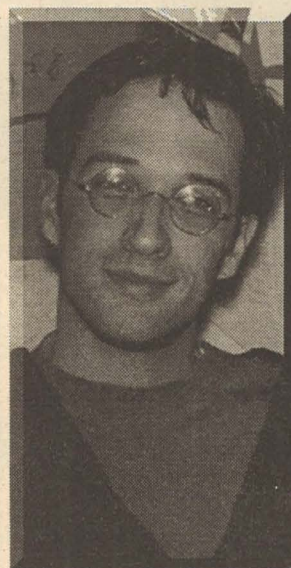
It's all a part of what Vasterling sees as an element of the emerging personality of Nashville Ballet, as it affirms its place among the nation's top ballet companies. “I want us to do more work that pushes the envelope,” he muses. “We're not that big—we'll be doing *Swan Lake* this spring, but in our own way. I want us to have a voice that is distinct.”

Vasterling, who very clearly has something to say through his choreography, says he plans to continue to make his home in Tennessee while continuing to work with ballet companies throughout the country.

“I like living in Nashville, and I especially like that the community—especially the gay community—has changed so much since I first came here,” the New Orleans native says.



Paul Vasterling's *This Heart*



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"Honestly, it was awful. I felt like they overdramatized everything. I would have rather kept the reunion simpler. It was very uncomfortable, but that's what a talk show is all about."

— *Female impersonator Danielle Hunter, a favorite on Tennessee stages, talks about her experience as a guest on the syndicated Jerry Springer Show, during which she was reunited with her sister—after an estrangement of almost five years.* (March 24, 1995)

"They've shown over the course of the season that Ellen's been struggling with it—just as most of us have done at some time in our lives. They've shown that it's not easy. Dealing with sexuality is not something like, 'It's fine, no problem.' Ellen has shown the American public that it's a gradual process."

— *Knoxville therapist Rick Sawyer talks about Ellen DeGeneres' decision to come out on her ABC sitcom.* (May 2, 1997)

"We had two protesters carrying picket signs outside the station yesterday. There was even one that called me a 'sodomite sympathizer.' But I'm just doing my job. When do I start saying I don't like fat, red-head people or skinny blond-headed people, so I'm not going to run any shows that have characters like that? People have their own convictions and beliefs, but in my opinion they don't have the right to push their will on someone else."

— *Jerry Linterfeld, general manager for WTVC/Channel 9 in Chattanooga, talks about public reaction to his decision to air the controversial Ellen coming-out episode.* (April 25, 1997)

"Is he gay?" It's a question of 'Is he funny and can he act?' If you can get the job done, that's what's most important to casting directors.

"Too many people think gay people want to rule the world that's just not true. We just want to be a part of that world."

— *Openly gay comedian-turned-actor Ant, a regular on the WB's Unhappily Ever After, reflects on fame—or the lack thereof.* (October 6, 1995)

"I think soap operas

have been one of the best sources of information about all sorts of social issues. If you feel like you're alone, and perhaps you don't live in a big metropolitan area where there are a lot of other gay people, these storylines show you that you are not alone. Soap operas also let people know that if they are dealing with something like AIDS, or sexual harassment, or child abuse—whatever the subject matter may be—that there is a place where you can get help, there is a place to call. People are willing to help and to counsel you. I think relevant storylines are very helpful to our viewers because they learn about these issues through storytelling, not preaching."

— *Soap opera star Eileen Fulton (Lisa on CBS' As The World Turns) talks about the impact of gay and AIDS storylines on daytime dramas.* (June 28, 1996)

"As someone who has come of age within the biggest urban center in the world, I've been taking on urban gay legends and myths. Like many others, I had a number of preconceived notions, but in talking to people from smaller cities, I've found that what many of us see at 'the way men are' is not necessarily the same. In smaller cities and rural areas, people are constructing their relationships differently, there's much more intergenerational mixing and a lot of differences that are apparent in

the urban gay centers of New York, West Hollywood, Miami and San Francisco."

— *Author/journalist Michelangelo Signorile, keynote speaker for Nashville's Pride '97 Celebration, talks about some of the findings included in his book, Life Outside: The Signorile Report on Gay Men: Sex, Drugs, Muscle and the Passages of Life.* (June 6, 1997)

"I never really thought of myself as being in the closet. I was lucky to have parents who were both very liberal-minded and all of my friends in high school were accepting of my sexual orientation. So, I was probably as out as any person

who is not a public figure could be. I didn't actually go into the closet until I was outed."

"I think coming out is the most important thing we can do for our own self-assurance and mental and physical health. For the community at large, it's important we come out and show them we can be good role models."

— *Lesbian activist Chastity Bono talks about her acknowledgement of her homosexuality and her parents' reaction to her revelation.* (February 2, 1996)

"I think many people know they can trust me, that I won't reveal their sexual orientation if they don't want me to. In fact, in this business you usually know who is gay and who isn't—and who is comfortable with having that information made public knowledge. People know I'll treat them fairly."

— *Entertainment Tonight correspondent Garrett Glaser discusses his role as an openly gay reporter in Hollywood.* (February 2, 1996)

"When we come out we show people that they do know someone who is gay. They can see the discrimination we face. For far too long, we have been an invisible population and when you are invis-

ible you open yourself up to all sorts of discrimination and biases. We must show the public that we're not some three-headed freaks from the wrong side of town from bad families."

— *Activist Candace Gingrich, sister to Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, explains why coming out is so important.* (June 23, 1995)

"I remember that first day in class when we were doing improvisation and I got up and made everybody laugh. I had always been funny, when you grow up a sissy, you try to make people laugh so they won't beat you up—you know, someone would throw a ball at me and I'd scream and dodge it and they'd laugh. But when I was in that class, it hit me like a thunderbolt, 'I am home.' and so that was how I decided what I wanted to do."

"Mama says I was always in stores pulling out my pee-pee or spitting on the floor to get attention. I had a twin sister who was just beautiful—china blue eyes, blonde curls just like Shirley Temple—and who got all the attention. I just couldn't bear it."

— *"Recovering Southern Baptist" Leslie Jordan, the comic TV actor (Murphy Brown, Sugar 'N' Spice and the autobiographical off-Broadway play Hysterical Blindness and Other Southern Tragedies That Have Plagued My Life Thus Far) originally from Chattanooga, talks about an Intro to Drama class he took at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.* (July 15, 1994)

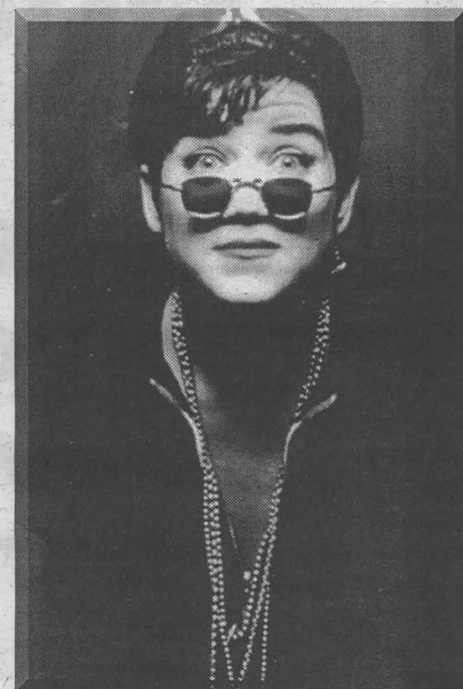
"Basically, [the Family Institute's involvement] is not so much that the sodomy law is something that we want to be engaged in. But to have the law on the books is a way of blocking attempts by the homosexual community to have same-sex marriages approved in Tennessee, or to gain other special rights or privileges that are currently not in our criminal code."

— *Jeff Whitesides, executive director of the*

Tennessee-based Family Institute, explains to Query why his organization was raising funds to fight to keep the state's same-sex sodomy law on the books. (February 3, 1995)

"I try to keep my finger on the clit of what's going on in the dyke world. I hate all this political correctness. I'm so over it. You know how 'pork is the other white meat'? Well, now beef wants to be called 'meat of color.' In the gay and lesbian community, we spend so much time yelling at each other, we never get anything done. We spend so much time trying to decide on what's correct that we're not really saying anything."

— *Outrageous comedian/actor Lea DeLaria.* (February 17, 1995)



"Winona fucking Ryder? For best actress? Please! Whose dick is she sucking? If she's so beautiful, just let me pay my seven bucks and give me an 8x10 glossy of her and then let a real actress do the movie."

— *More from DeLaria, this time weighing in on the 1995 Oscar nominations.* (February 17, 1995)



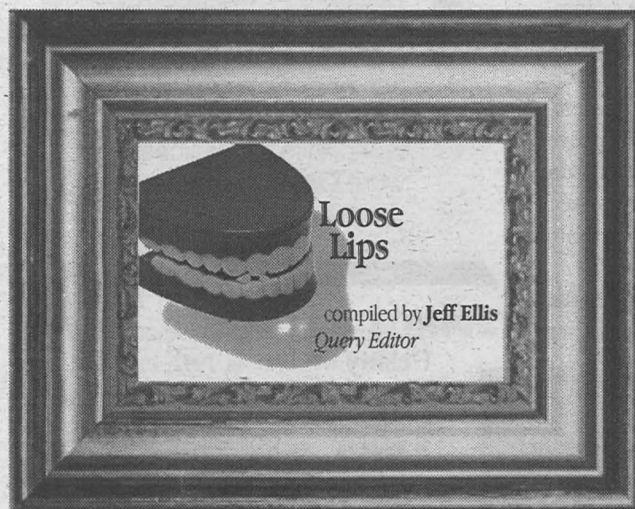
"Just tap into the power you have inside yourself to become the wonderful creation you are. We are all a part of the power that created the universe."

— *Words of wisdom from Ru-*

Paul, supermodel of the world and the glamorous of the '90s. (September 29, 1995)

"I like the writing part because I get to express myself that way, but in live performance you get to see people's faces and watch their reactions. You get different reactions from different crowds and as I cross over, it's kind of strange. In mixed crowds, a lot of people sit there and drink their beer and just listen to me singing, but in gay clubs, people are dancing all over the place and really getting into the music."

— *Dance music diva Crystal Waters.* (October 21, 1994)

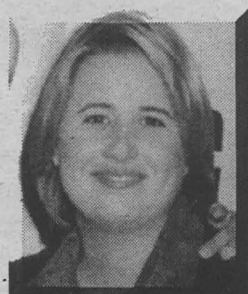


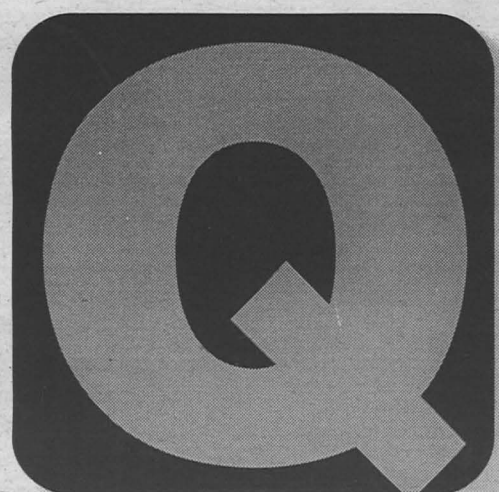
"This show really isn't breaking new ground. It's not something like when *Maude* had an abortion. This isn't new territory—it's been on television before. There have been gay and lesbian people on television for years. The only difference is that I think there's been an inordinate amount of press on *Ellen*—and that's fueled opposition to the show."

— *Bill Harper, general manager of WBBJ Channel 7 in Jackson, weighs in on the Ellen controversy.*

"I never thought I was funny. Everyone else thinks I'm funny. Still to this day, I don't think I'm very talented or very funny. I always knew I'd be famous. My mother always liked going to psychics and they told her she would have a famous son someday."

"...Yeah [I still work]. It's because I'm honest, truthful and talented. There are so many gay people in Hollywood now that it's no longer a question of





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THIS WEEK IN LESBIAN AND GAY HISTORY

What happened March 27-April 2?

MARCH 27—British writer **Denton Welch** was born in 1915. *Lesbian and Gay Issues* was the theme of a 1993 university forum at Western Kentucky University, sponsored by the WKU Lambda Society. **Two Middle Tennessee doctors** in 1992 had their licenses to practice medicine suspended after they allegedly promised patients they could "cure" AIDS with "the recipe," a concoction of a variety of drugs they sold for \$10,000.



MARCH 28—Actor **Dirk Bogarde** was born in 1920. In the 1961 film, *Victim*, his character said the word "homosexual," which marked the first time the word was used in a mainstream film. Lesbian writer **Jane Rule**, whose *Desert of the Heart* was made into the film *Desert Hearts*, was born in 1931.

MARCH 29—American playwright **Jane Chambers** (*Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*) was born on this date in 1937. She died of cancer in 1983. The **U.S. Supreme Court**, in 1976, voted 6 to 3 to uphold the constitutionality of Virginia's sodomy law. Acclaimed vocalist **Karen Edwards** appeared at Metropolitan Community Church/Huntsville in 1993. In 1994, College students at the **University of Memphis** and at **Rhodes College** in Memphis, worked toward a common goal of acceptance of lesbian, gay and bisexual people at the two schools.

MARCH 30—U.S. Rep. **Barney Frank** (D-Massachusetts), one of Congress' three openly

gay members, was born in 1940. French poet **Paul Verlaine** was born in 1844.

MARCH 31—English poet **Edward Fitzgerald** (*The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayam*) was born in 1809. Actor **Richard Chamberlain**, the king of the mini-series who all the supermarket tabloids say is a closeted gay man, was born in 1935. No trace of HIV was found in 1989 among 500 former patients of **Nashville physician Harold Dennison** who died of AIDS the previous January. In 1991, **Knoxville lesbian and gay activists** joined with other groups nationwide to stage a protest at **Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores'** West Knoxville outlet, decrying the corporation's policy of firing employees perceived to be lesbian, gay or bisexual. Approximately \$200 was taken during a 1992 robbery at **Warehouse Two**, one of Nashville's most popular lesbian/gay nightclubs.

Betcha didn't know

In 1997 there were 71 gay and lesbian newspapers in the United States, with an estimated combined readership of more than 3.5 million. Further, there are more than two dozen monthly and bi-monthly magazines aimed at the gay and lesbian market.

The Homophile Movement of the 1950s and 1970s spawned a handful of newsletters and magazines, but the three major homophile magazines were *One*, *The Ladder* and *The Mattachine Review*.

APRIL 1—Science fiction author **Samuel Delany** was born in 1942. In 1985, the **Harvey Milk School** for gay and lesbian teenagers opened in New York City.

APRIL 2—Legendary heldentenor **Lauritz Melchior** made his operatic debut in Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci* in 1913. Author **Hans Christian Andersen** was born on this date in 1805. Gay photographer **Robert Opel** "streaked" the Academy Awards show in 1974. The film version of **James Kirkwood's** *Some Kind of Hero* opened in 1982—with all the gay themes exorcised. □



Nashville Pride 1997

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Friends, neighbors & networks

Bowling Green, Kentucky

Area Code 502 ■ Central Time Zone

AIDS Southern Kentucky Support mtgs, Wed, 6pm. ASK Building, 730 Fairview Ave. Info 842-5833.

Western Kentucky University Lambda Box 8335, 42101. Info 796-8062.

Chattanooga

Area Code 423 ■ Eastern Time Zone

Chattanooga/Hamilton Co. Health Dept Free HIV testing. At 921 E 3rd St, Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm. Info 757-2078. At Chuck's 1st Fri, 9pm-midnight. Info 757-2009.

Chattanooga CARES AIDS Resource Ctr for the Tenn Valley. Tue, 7pm: HIV+ support group. Thu, 7:30pm: Friends & Family of HIV+. Info 265-2273. AIDS Hotline 267-AIDS [2437] after 4pm.

Chattanooga Pride Bx Box 196, Lupton City 37351. Info 265-0977.

Gay & Lesbian 12-step Program Open recovery mtg. Sun, 8pm. At Grace Episcopal, lower rm, 20 Belvoir Ave. Info 344-3599.

Integrity / Chattanooga 1st & 3rd Sun, 6pm. At Thankful Memorial Episcopal, 1617 West 43rd, St. Elmo. Info 821-3131.

Joyful Sound Christian Fellowship Sun, 6pm. At downstairs Chapel, Unitarian Church, 3224 Navajo Dr. Info 629-0887.

Lambda Youth Chattanooga Support group for les/gay/bi teens. 1st & 3rd Sun, 3pm. 517-4601.

Metropolitan Community Church Worship: Sun, 6 pm: 1601 Foust St. Info 629-2737.

Trail Adventure & Leisure for Keeping Solidarity [TALKS] Gay hiking & camping group. Info 266-5275.

Clarksville

Area Code 931 ■ Central Time Zone

Clarksville CARES Support for HIV+, ARC, AIDS, family & partners. 8 am-2pm, Mon-Fri. United Way Bldg, 1300 Madison St. Info 553-8711.

Cleveland

Area Code 423 ■ Eastern Time Zone

AIDS Resource Ctr for the Tenn Valley Tue, 7pm: HIV+ & Friends support group. Info 265-2273. AIDS Hotline 267-AIDS [2437] after 4pm.

Cookeville

Area Code 931 ■ Central Time Zone

Middle Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance 4th Sun, 5:30pm. Info 836-3085 or 858-7853.

Huntsville, Alabama

Area Code 205 ■ Central Time Zone

Coming Out Support Group Ste 103, 2400 Bob Wallace Blvd. Info 533-6220.

GALOP For les/gay/bi professionals. 4th Thu, 7pm. Call for location & info 517-6127.

Living Sober Lesbian / gay 12-step. Closed mtg: Wed, 8pm. Open mtg: Sat & Sun, 8pm. 1412 Randolph Ave. Info 533-6220.

Metropolitan Community Church Worship: Sun, 11am & 6pm; Wed, 7pm. 3015 Sparkman Dr. Info 533-6220.

North Alabama Coalition for Lesbians & Gays Sharing & networking group. 2nd Thu, 7pm. Info 881-2961.

Tenn Valley Gay Pride Wed, 7pm, 3015 Sparkman Dr. Info TNVGP@aol.com.

Unitarian Universalist Church Welcomes lesbians, gay men. 2222 Governor's Dr, 35801. Info 534-0508.

Jackson

Area Code 901 ■ Central Time Zone

Human Beings Care HIV Resources Inc Info 661-0092 or (800) 562-3383.

Lambda Support Group Lesbian & gay support & discussion group. 2nd Sat, 3 pm. Info 661-0413.

Parents, Friends & Family of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) Info 661-0092 or (800) 562-3383.

Knoxville

Area Code 423 ■ Eastern Time Zone

AIDS Response Knoxville Tue: Family & Friends Support Group, 6-7:30 pm. Wed: Women's Support Group (for HIV+ women), 5-6:30 pm. All at Ste 410, 109 Northshore Dr. Info 450-AIDS.

Appalachian Bear Club Bx 27144, Knoxville 37927-7144. Info 688-9509. BBS 522-4674.

Brothers United A statewide collective for gay and bisexual men of color is looking to start a chapter in Knoxville. 450-2437.

Friends Gay/lesbian fun social group. Sun, 1pm: picnic, Ft. Dickerson Park. Info 525-8309.

Friends & "Family" Gay/lesbian social group. Info 579-4067.

Gay & Lesbian Helpline Listening, info & referral. Operates 7-11pm nightly, staff permitting. Info 521-6546.

Gay Gratitude Group Open, nonsmoking Alcoholics Anonymous. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 3219 Kingston Pk. Mon & Fri, 7pm. Info 579-1403.

Gay/Lesbian AI-Anon Mon, 6-7pm. Tennessee Valley Unitarian, 32219 Kingston Pike. Info 687-3138.

Gay Men's Support Group Discussion. Mon, 7:30-9pm. Tennessee Valley Unitarian. Info 523-6101.

Girls' Night Out Free movie and Dinner group; bring a dish. Sponsored by Lesbian Social Group. Meets 1st & 3rd Tue, 7:30pm. Positively Living Center, 2928 E. Magnolia Ave. Info (423) 938-0188.

The Hope Center Support & advocacy for individuals affected by HIV/AIDS. 1901 Clinch Ave. Info 541-3767.

Integrity / Knoxville 4th Tue, 6:30pm. At St. Thomas' Episcopal, 5401 Tiffany Rd at Merchants Dr. 524-9587.

Knoxville Gay Liberation Front Broad-platformed direct-action political group. 595-8638.

Lambda Literary Group Meets to discuss books by gay authors at Barnes & Noble Booksellers. Info 670-0773.

Lambda Student Union / UTK Weekly mtg: Tue, 8pm. At the University Center, UTK campus. Info 974-4725.

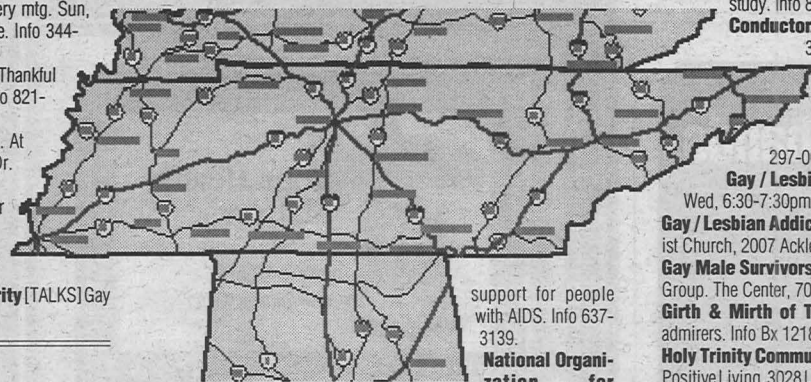
Lesbian Social Group Meets Wed, 7:30pm. Java Coffee House, 5115 Homberg Drive (behind Terrace Theatre). Info (423) 938-0188.

Love Delivers Provides hot meals for persons affected by HIV/AIDS. Info 450-2437.

Lutherans Concerned Lutheran gay/lesbian support group, services. Info 470-2221.

Metropolitan Community Church Worship: Sun, 6pm. 1053 Tranquilla Drive. Info 521-6546.

National Association of People with AIDS [NAPWA] Knoxville Chapter. Crisis intervention, social activities & direct emergency



Women [NOW] Knoxville Chapter. Info 995-9672.

Open Door. Gay men's support group. Thurs, 7:30pm. Java Coffee House, 5115 Homberg Drive (behind Terrace Theatre).

Pride Committee 1st Mon, 7:30pm. Candy Factory. Info 546-9704.

P-FLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) Support group. Info 688-6446 or 579-7969 or 693-3047.

Smoky Mountain Bears Bear club. 1st Sat, 7pm, Ol' Plantation. Box 52662, 37950-2662 or phone 539-2471. usBears BBS 531-7515.

Smoky Mountains Gay & Lesbian Support Info 932-4138.

Memphis

Area Code 901 ■ Central Time Zone

Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Memphis Lambda Ctr, 241 N Cleveland. Sat, 6:30pm. Info 276-7379.

AI-Anon At Memphis Lambda Ctr, 241 N Cleveland. Wed, 6:30pm. Info 276-7379.

Black & White Men Together [BWMT] Social & service group. Info 948-2387 or 682-9106.

Friends for Life AIDS Resource Center Support groups for PWAs, for caregivers and partners of PWAs (call for times). Foodpantry, emergency assistance, legal services, AIDS information library, counseling and case management. 1450 Poplar Ave. Info 272-0855. 24-hr hotline 278-AIDS.

Gay Alternative Hour Radio, WEVL-FM 90. Mon, 6-7pm.

Holy Trinity Community Church Sun: Sunday school 10am; Worship 11am & 7pm; Wed: 7pm. 2323 Monroe Ave [former Eternal Mercy Lutheran Church for the Deaf]. Info 726-9443.

Integrity Lesbian & gay Episcopalians & friends. 3rd Tue. At Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N 2nd. Info 525-6602.

Into the Light (Women's Alcoholics Anonymous) Memphis Lambda Ctr, 241 North Cleveland. Thu, 8pm; Sun, noon. Info 276-7379.

Lambda Men's Chorus Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N 2nd. Tue, 7:30pm. Info 728-GAYS [4297].

Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center 3rd Mon: GayRap, 7pm. 2nd Tue: Board mtg, 7pm. Wed: HIV testing by Shelby Co. Health Dept., 5-7pm. 3rd Sat: Potluck, 7pm. \$3 w/covered dish, \$5 w/o. Call for location. Info 728-GAYS [4297].

Memphis Gay Switchboard Evenings. Info 728-GAYS [4297].

Memphis Pride Box 3956, 38173. Info 726-5263.

National Organization for Women 1st Tue, 7 pm. At The Coffee Cellar, 3573 Southern Ave. Info 272-9538.

Our Meeting (Alcoholics Anonymous) At Memphis Lambda Ctr, 241 N Cleveland. Tue: 5:30pm; Thu: 5:30pm. Info 276-7379.

P-FLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) Support group. St. John's Episcopal, 322 S Greer. 1st Thu, 7pm. Info 761-1444.

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open mtgs. Memphis Lambda Ctr, 241 N Cleveland. Mon: 8pm; Tue: 8pm; Wed: 8pm; Fri: 10pm; Sat: 8pm; Sun: 8pm. Info 527-1461, 726-6293 or 327-3676.

Seriously Sober (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Memphis Lambda Ctr, 241 N Cleveland. Fri, 8pm. Info 272-9549.

Southern Country Memphis Country Western dance for men & women. Tue & Fri, 8pm, at Reflections, 92 N Avalon; Wed, 7:30pm, at WKRB, 1528 Madison. Info 362-2117.

Student Diversity Council For Memphis State Univ students. Sun, 4pm. Info 454-0897.

Support Group for Gay Catholics & Friends Genl mtg 1st & 3rd Thu, liturgy 1st & 3rd Thu. Info 725-5237.

Univ of Memphis GALA Thu. Info 728-GAYS [4297].

Women NOW Sponsor: Memphis Chapter NOW. Memphis Cable Channel 6. Tue, 5pm; Thu, 7pm; Sat, 8pm. Info 276-0282.

Young & Proud For those 18-25. Wed, 7:30pm. Info 728-GAYS [4297].

Murfreesboro

Area Code 615 ■ Central Time Zone

MTSU Lambda Middle Tenn St Univ students & nonstudents. Tue, 6:30pm. Mass Comm Rm 104. Info MTSU Box 624, 37132.

Nashville

Area Code 615 ■ Central Time Zone

Affirmation Lesbian/gay United Methodist potluck & fellowship. 4th Wed, 7pm. Info 254-7628.

AI-Anon Support group for gay men, lesbians affected by someone else's drinking. Unity Ctr for Positive Living, 3028 Lebanon Rd, Donelson. Thu, 7:30pm. Info 391-5408.

Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group Belmont United Methodist, 2007 Acklen Av. Fri, 7pm.

Alternatives (Alcoholics Anonymous) Closed mtg for lesbians & gay men. Belmont United Methodist Church, 2007 Acklen Av. Thu, 7:30pm.

BiNet Nashville Social organization for bisexuals and bi-friendly folks. 4th Fri, 7 pm. At Café Elliston, 210 Louise Ave. Info (800) 484-2078 x1967.

Church of the Living Water Sun, 6:30 pm: worship at First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont; Wed, 7 pm: Bible study. Info 884-2929, 865-2679.

Conductors Social & Service club. 2nd Fri. Info Bx 40261, 37204.

Gay & Lesbian Partners Network The Center, 703 Berry Rd. 1st Sat, 6pm. Free. Info 297-0008.

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Daily 5-10pm. 297-0008.

Gay / Lesbian AA St. Ann's Episcopal, 5th & Woodland. Wed, 6:30-7:30pm. Info 298-1050.

Gay / Lesbian Addictions Anonymous Belmont United Methodist Church, 2007 Acklen Av. Wed, 7:30pm.

Gay Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse & Incest Support Group. The Center, 703 Berry Rd. Mon, 7pm. Info 360-8634.

Girth & Mirth of Tennessee Social club for big men & their admirers. Info Bx 121886 37212-1886.

Holy Trinity Community Church Sun: worship, 6pm, Unity Ctr for Positive Living, 3028 Lebanon Rd; Thu, Bible Study/dinner, 7pm, 604 Russell St. Info 662-0376 or 251-9057.

Incest Survivors Anonymous First Church Unity, 5125 Franklin Rd. Sat: Open mtg, 5:30pm. Sun: Closed men's & women's mtg, 6pm.

Integrity of Middle Tennessee Lesbian / gay Episcopalians & friends. 2nd Sun, 6:30pm. Eucharist with potluck following, St. Ann's Episcopal, 419 Woodland. Info 333-7509.

Lambda Book Discussion Group 3rd Wed, 7:30pm. Bookstar, 4301 Harding Rd. Info 292-7895.

Lambda Group Closed Alcoholics Anonymous mtg for gay men & lesbians, Unitarian Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd. Mon, 8pm.

Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice [LGCJ] 1st Thu: business mtg, 7pm. 3rd Thu, program, 7pm. At St. Ann's Episcopal, 5th & Woodland. Info 298-LGCJ [5425].

Lesbian Potluck 2nd Sat, 7pm. Info 297-0008.

MAGNET Married & Gay Network. The Center, 703 Berry Rd. 1st & 3rd Tue, 7pm. Info 297-0008.

Metropolitan Community Church At Edgehill United Methodist Church, 1502 Edgehill Ave. Sun: Bible study, 5:30 pm; worship service, 7 pm. Info 874-9636.

Music City Bears Bear club. Box 101592, 37224-1592.

Music City Sports Association Softball, info 742-5987.

Music City Panel Makers AIDS Memorial Quilt Sewing Circle. Info Box 41225, 37204 or 385-9092.

Nashville CARES Regular support groups for HIV+ persons & those affected by HIV disease. Info (800) 845-4266.

Nashville/Mid Tenn Pride 1st & 3rd Sat, 10 am. The Center, 703 Berry Rd. Info 297-0008.

Nashville Women's Alliance 703 Berry Rd. 3rd & 4th Tue, 7pm. Info 297-0008.

One in Teen Support group for lesbian, gay & bisexual teens. Wed, 6:30pm. Info 297-0008.

P-FLAG Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, 1st Tue. Unitarian Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd. 7pm. Info 377-0496 or 662-0332.

Positive Voice Nashville CARES, Cummins Station, 209 10th Ave S, STE 160. 4th Sun. Info 259-4866, ext 128.

Reconciliation Support group for lesbian/gay people with a loved one in prison. Info 292-6371.

Rejoice & Be Glad Lesbian & gay Catholics. 1st Sun, 2pm. Info 646-5163.

Sexaholics Anonymous Info 251-7516.

Southern Country Nashville 3rd Wed: Board mtg, 7:30pm. Tue & Thu, dance classes, 7-10pm. At the Chute, 2535 Franklin Rd. Free. Info 226-7124.

Stonewall Mission Church Sun: Worship, 6:30pm. At the Center, 703 Berry Rd. Free. Info 269-3480.

Tennessee Vals Support group for CDs, TGs, TSs & significant others. 2nd Sat. Info Box 92335, Nashville 37209 or 664-6883 or http://www.transgender.org/tg/tvals/index.html.

Vanderbilt Lambda Association Vanderbilt Univ. Thu, 7 pm. Info 322-0376.

Women's Discussion Group For lesbian & bisexual women. Wed. At The Center, 703 Berry Rd. Info 297-0008.

Paducah, Kentucky

Area Code 502 ■ Central Time Zone

Heartland CARES Provides emergency and transitional housing services, case management and support group activities for persons living in the 17 western-most counties of Kentucky. Info 443-6044.

Toll-free for clients only (888) 443-6044.

Sewanee

Area Code 931 ■ Central Time Zone

South Middle Tennessee Alternative Lifestyles 2nd Sat, 7pm. Free. Call for mtg place. Info 598-5012.

Shelbyville

Area Code 931 ■ Central Time Zone

Open Heart 1st Sat, 7pm. Free. Call for mtg place. Info 469-0281.

Tri-Cities

Area Code 423 ■ Eastern Time Zone

East Tennessee State Univ Lambda Wed, 4-6pm. 3rd Flr, Culp Ctr. Info 929-5675 or ETSU Box 17763, Johnson City 37614.

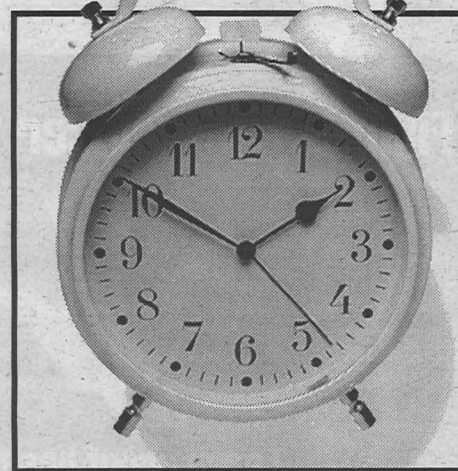
Gay & Lesbian AA Closed mtg. At Lighthouse Outreach Ctr, E Center St, Kingsport. Wed, 8pm. Info 378-4774.

Metropolitan Community Church of the Trinity Sun: worship service, 7pm. At Holston Valley Unitarian Church, Gray. Info 283-7554.

Twelve-Step 5pm, Sun. 2226 College St, Johnson City. Info 926-4393.

BIG EVENTS

Hot dates



Saturday & Sunday, March 28 & 29

THE NAMES PROJECT Two-day display of the National AIDS Memorial Quilt at Chattanooga Theatre Centre from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (ET). Call (423) 265-2273 for information.

Saturday, March 28

BIANNUAL MEMORIAL P-KNUTTS BENEFIT At P's Tavern, 539 Franklin Street, Clarksville at 7 p.m. (CT). To benefit Clarksville CARES. \$5 donation. Call (931) 553-8711 for ticket information.

Sunday, March 29

THE STRIDES OF MARCH The third annual walk to benefit Chattanooga CARES, featuring Miss American 1998 Kate Shindle. Chattanooga Theatre Centre, registration 1:30 p.m.; walk 2:30 p.m. (ET). Call (423) 265-2273 for information.

Monday, April 6

ESTATE PLANNING PROGRAM Estate planning seminar for lesbians and gay men at Girl Scout Council on Granny White Pike, Nashville, at 6:30 p.m. (CT). Cost is \$10 in advance, \$12.50 at the door. Sponsored by The Community Foundation's Franklin Brooks Fund and *Query, Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly*. Info (615) 321-4939.

Saturday, April 11

LESBIAN HEALTH FAIR Free health screenings to be held at 4 p.m. (CT) at Your Way Café/Women's Choice Bar, 515 Second Avenue, Nashville. Sponsored by Planned Parenthood of Middle Tennessee and

Integrity Knoxville

Regular Meeting 2nd & 4th Tuesday
Holy Eucharist, 6:30
St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 501 Tiffany Rd, Knoxville



Integrity of Middle Tennessee

Fourth Tuesday
Holy Eucharist, 6:30 pm
Potluck dinner, 7:30 pm
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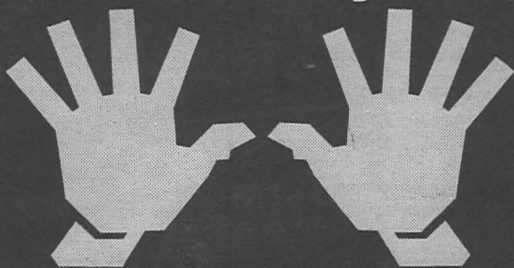
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AN APPLE A DAY

Taking care of yourself is the key

Lesbians have long neglected our health matters, and it is time we began to pay attention to our health.

Your health involves not only your physical well being, but also your spiritual and emotional well being. And health isn't something to think about only during periods of illness. In fact, one of the most important components of health is wellness—or disease prevention.

Research tells us that the lesbian population as a whole is less likely to seek preventive care or treatment for illness than other segments of the population.

primary provider will be your referral source to specialists, not only in medicine, but also in mental health. PPMT is prepared to be that primary provider.

There are many pressing topics for women's health, issues like breast cancer, cervical cancer, dysfunctional uterine bleeding, AIDS, chronic illness, high blood pressure, diabetes, weight loss, smoking cessation, menopause, fertility, depression, mental illness, terminal illness, and death and dying.

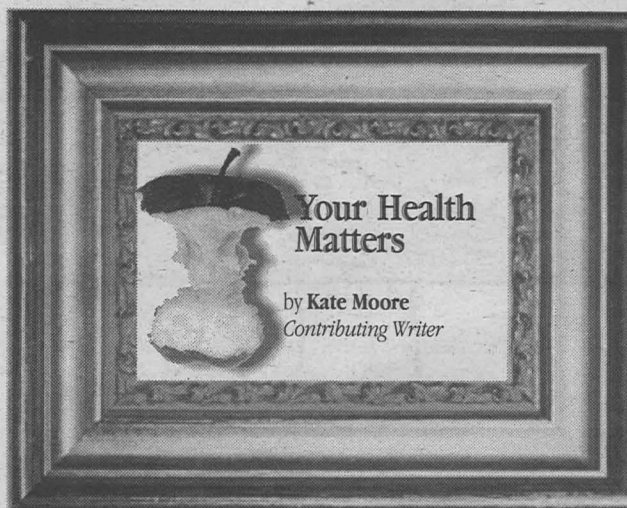
These topics and others will be addressed in this column. I would also encourage you to write with

your questions so this column may also serve as a forum for your issues.

PPMT will be sponsoring a "Lesbian Health Fair" on Saturday, April 11 at 4 p.m. (CT) at the Women's Choice Bar/Your Way Café in Nashville. Health screening will be done that day and we'll have information about PPMT and the services we offer.

I suspect that many of you are thinking, "Planned Parenthood and lesbian health in the same sentence?" PPMT is a comprehensive provider of health care with a special emphasis on women's issues.

What better place for a women's clinic with a desire to be known as *the* place for lesbians to go for comprehensive health care.



First, the lesbian community needs a education that our health matters and secondly, the issues of sexism and heterosexism must be addressed.

The debut of this column is tied to those issues. Because of interest in education of the lesbian community and to address the heterosexism of women's health, Planned Parenthood of Middle Tennessee (PPMT) has begun a project to specifically target health care to the lesbian community.

The PPMT staff has been in training since November, learning to be culturally sensitive and creating an awareness of lesbian health issues.

Women may choose not to seek regular health care visits because of one or two bad experiences with insensitive providers. This is the first issue that was addressed with the PPMT staff.

PPMT is becoming a culturally sensitive health care provider for all health care consumers. Our sensitivity is directed toward all clients, by embracing lesbian issues, we have become more culturally aware to all women's and men's needs in health care.

You may be asking yourself: "What are lesbian health care issues?" Typically, they are health care issues for every woman. Women need regular pelvic and pap exams, breast exams and general health physical to include lab evaluation. The frequency with which these exams occur is based in a large part on the results of the previous exam.

After two to three years of regular, normal exams, a healthy individual may have a full exam every two years, after consultation with the provider.

It is very important to establish a relationship with a primary health care provider. That provider should know your entire medical history.

You should feel comfortable with the provider so you can freely disclose information about your sexuality and sexual practices. The provider should also be comfortable with the information you share about your sexuality.

In a relationship with a provider, you should expect to be able to discuss your family unit, issues about children and issues about relationships. Your

*It is very
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care provider.*

PPMT encourages you to have that exam you've been putting off because the last one was so embarrassing. I know you have all had one of those exams. We all encourage you to call with your questions. We have two sites for your convenience, the Southeast Clinic and the D.B. Todd Clinic.

We are very excited to have *Query* as our media partner in our effort to reach out to the community.

We look forward to the opportunity to meet each of you at the health fair and to see you at the clinic to get to know you and help you meet your health care needs.



Editor's Note: *Kate Moore is a Nashville-based registered nurse with a Master of Science degree in nursing and is a certified registered nurse-practitioner. If you have questions*

for this column, send them to: Your Health Matters, Query, Box 24241, Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

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- **Island House, South Beach,** Tropical Heat Wave! South Beach's Largest All Gay Guesthouse. Rooms & Studios. Complimentary Breakfast & Welcome Cocktails. Walk To Everything!! 1428 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach. (800) 382-2422 or (305) 864-2422.

Roommates

- **GWM roommate wanted** to share 3BR, 2.5 bath condo in Priest Lake Area. \$350/month includes utilities. Call (615) 884-9120.
- **SGWM sks same** to share 2BR mobile home \$50/week +1/2 elec. No drugs, no drink. Please be employed. Nashville (615) 254-2050.
- **Wanted: Millionaire roommate**—or at least someone who has a steady income. Writer in Franklin seeks roommate who doesn't mind smoking. Call (615) 794-0257 for details.
- **GWM roommate wanted** to share condo in West End/Vandy area. For more info, call (615) 463-7628 and leave a message.

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- **Available immediately:** Brand-new 1BR/1BA apartment in lovely cottage on very quiet street in East Nashville. \$500/month (+deposit), includes all utilities, including basic cable, W/D privileges. Non-smoker only. Call (615) 650-1572.
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AIN'T NOBODY'S BUSINESS Athletic, muscular, smooth chested, White male, 34, 5'7, 150lbs, with Brown hair and Hazel eyes, is very conservative and in the closet. I don't smoke, drink, or go to the clubs. I'm interested in meeting a similar guy for a possible relationship. (Knoxville) ☎12859

LIKE TO HIKE? I'm a Professional Male, 40, look 35, 5'4", with a good body. I'm into fitness, the outdoors, hiking, music, and going out. I'm looking for friendship, so let's get together and have a good time. (Bristol) ☎16269

PEAS IN A PUD I'd like to meet some easy going, friendly guys, to hang out with. I'm a good looking, 20 year old, White male, 5'4, 140lbs, with short, Brown hair and Brown eyes. If a relationship develops, great. (Dickson) ☎10867

DOWN ON THE FARM My partner and I live on a farm just outside of Clarksville. We're both in our mid 40's, attractive, 5'11, 170lbs. We're light smokers and drinkers into kicking back, relaxing, and having some good times. We'd like to meet other laid back men into safe sex and other fun. We're not into the bars or late nights. (Clarksville) ☎10983

TENDER HEART This open minded, Gay, Black male, seeks a sincere, honest, trustworthy friend, who is not ashamed of what people may say. I hope we can share ourselves and build a relationship. Looks are not important, just the heart and love. Let's be friends. I'm willing, are you? ☎11430

COUNTRY MAN I'm a good looking, 36 year old, Gay, White male, 5'7, 145lbs, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, and a handlebar mustache. I enjoy old movies, horseback riding, quiet evenings, and more. I'm hoping to meet another masculine, Gay, White male, 35 to 55, who's into country music and a country man. (Cookville) ☎11810

ORAL FIXATION? This good looking, well endowed, 27 year old, White male needs to meet a guy into oral sex. (Columbia) ☎12235

TAKE IT EASY Me and my partner, in our mid 40's, live on a farm outside Clarksville. We're around 5'11, 170lbs, nice looking, laid back, and fun loving. We're into light smoke and drink. We'd like to meet other guys seeking fun times, and safe sex, without any complications. (Clarksville) ☎12713

GREAT EXPECTATIONS If you expect more, you get more. This good looking, White male, in my late forties, 6ft, 170lbs, seeks good times with one or more, Black or White males. You must be well built and masculine. Hair body a plus. (Columbia) ☎13654

SMOOTH OPERATOR This good looking, 30 year old, White male, seeks someone for oral service, at their place, after work. You should be 18 to 35, have a smooth body, and preferably be in the military. (Clarksville) ☎14181

INTENSELY CURIOUS I'm an attractive, Bi curious, White male, 29, 6ft, 190lbs, with Brown hair and eyes. I'm interested in finding out what I've been missing. I'll travel as far as Nashville to meet a nice guy. (Crossville) ☎14414

NEW TERRITORY I'm a Bi-curious Married White Male, 28, 5'7", 140 lbs., with blonde hair and blue eyes. I've never been with a Man before, and I need someone to show me the ropes and help me see what I've been missing. Let's be discrete. (Clarksville) ☎15259

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES? I'm a bottom Man, 6'1", 200 lbs., and I like it rough. (Chattanooga) ☎15286

THE YOUNG ONES This young Male seeks other young Males, 18-23, for good times, hanging out, and maybe more. You never know! (Nashville) ☎16117

LET'S PLAY HOUSE This masculine White Male top, 6'1", 210 lbs, seeks a feminine bottom plaything. Transvestites, cross-dressers, and shaved bodies encouraged to respond. (Nashville) ☎16602

OPPOSITES ATTRACT Me: top, tall, 6'1", husky, 210 lbs., masculine. You: shorter, bottom, slender, less masculine. Clean shaven body is a plus. (Nashville) ☎15764

OPPORTUNITY KNOX This attractive, professional, very discreet, White male, 38, likes to have sexual fun with other masculine men. I'm especially interested in Married and Bi guys. (Knoxville) ☎12760

LOW HANGERS This rugged, attractive, Bi, White male, seeks other fun guys to have good times with. ☎12949

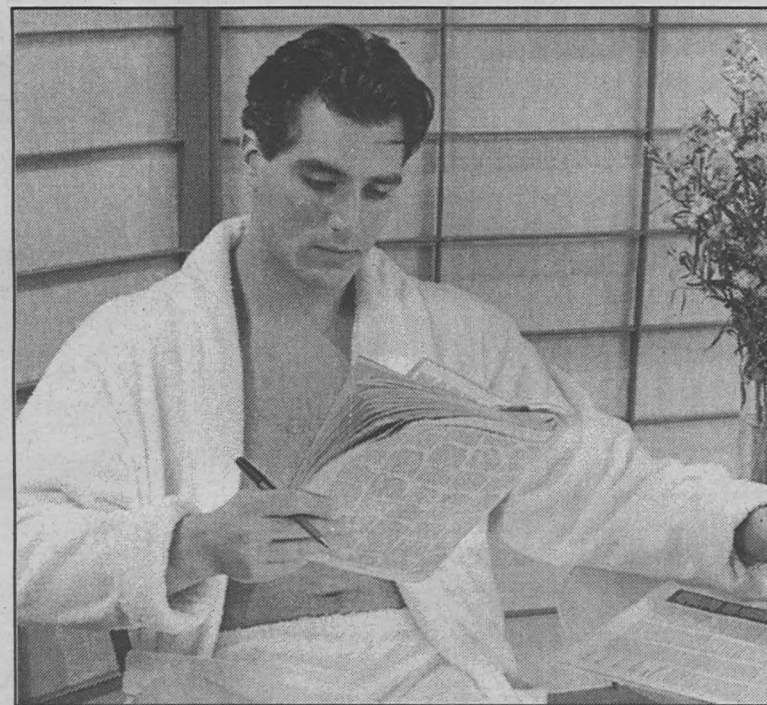
NO STRINGS FUN This 24-year-old Male, 5'11", 140 lbs., seeks Gay Males, 18-25, under 150 lbs., for good times. No long-term-relationships, just hot action. (Johnson City) ☎15638

THE COMPANY OF MEN This middle-aged White Male, 5'6", 160 lbs., with almost-white hair seeks Male companionship and possibly more. (Oak Ridge) ☎15773

KNOXVILLE NIGHTS This White Male, 34, seeks Guys in my area for good times, including movies, dining out, and quiet evenings at home. (Knoxville) ☎16171

FORGET GOLDOLOCKS I'm a 28-year-old baby bear, 5'8", with a short brown mustache and goatee, in search of a papa bear to keep me warm. ☎15559

POSITIVE RESULTS YOU: Young, attractive, deep, together, non-smoking, HIV positive. ME: Patiently waiting! (Nashville) ☎12817



UNDER THE MICROSCOPE This hot, male escort, into being nude, both indoors and out, has appeared in videos and magazines. See me up close. (Middle Tennessee) ☎13910

FRIENDSHIP IS VITAL This 34 year old, Gay, White male, seeks an honest, Gay male, 28 to 40, of any race, for a good friendship, possibly leading to more. I enjoy dining out, movies, U of T sports, socializing, and quiet evenings at home. I'm not interested in the bars. (Morristown) ☎13095

EBONY AND IVORY I'm a 26-year-old Gay Black male in search of a long-term relationship with a White male. If you're between the ages of 26 and 45 and are seeking the same, leave me a message. ☎14570

EASY TO PLEASE I'm a 28-year-old Gay Male hoping to meet other Gay Males who like camping, fishing, hiking, and movies. Just about anything is fun to me. ☎15111

PHONE FRIENDS This White Male, 5'6", 160 lbs., would like to talk to other Males around age 40 on the phone, with the possibility of a follow-up friendship or relationship later on. ☎15255

HANGIN' LOW This muscle jock, 5'8", 150 lbs., with curly blonde hair, blue/green eyes, and a 9 1/2" cut dick, likes the outdoors, 3-ways, groups, and one-on-one action. I restore old homes, am well-off, and travel quite a bit. Let's get it on. (Knoxville) ☎15830

JAZZ BOTTOM This jazz lovin', big guy, 6'5, 200lbs, with a beard, mustache, and bald spot, looks like a top but prefers being a bottom. I love to listen to and play jazz. I'm a city boy into books and science fiction films, but not tv. I like masculine, well endowed, hairy guys, 30 to 50. I smoke and drink, mostly coffee. (Nashville) ☎13385

STEAM VALVE I'm a 37 year old, Bi, White male, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, and a runner's build, which makes sense because I'm a runner. I'm seeking other men, 29 to 55, who aren't looking for a relationship but would like a buddy to let off some steam with, every once in a while. You should be passionate, aggressive, and uninhibited, like me. (Nashville) ☎11995

HUNTING SEASON I'm an honest, open minded, masculine, 18 year old, Gay, White male, 6'3, 160lbs, with short, Brown hair and Hazel eyes. I love the outdoors, animals, shooting pool, fishing, hunting, and just hanging out, having fun. I'd like to meet other masculine, Single, Gay, White males, with similar interests, for good times or more. (Nashville) ☎11998

COLLEGIATE LOOK This hot, very sexual, Blond dude, 24, with a collegiate look, wants to hook up with other sexy men, of any race and age, for hot times. I especially like hairy men. (Nashville) ☎12127

T'S OUR CALL This 28-year-old Male, 5'8", 190 lbs, into music, movies, and modern art, seeks a masculine Male, 25-35, for dinner and whatever else we decide on. (Nashville) ☎16665

HAIRY BROWN SKIN Good looking, slender, Haitian male, 28, 6ft, 165lbs, with Black hair, Brown eyes, light Brown skin, and a hairy body, is a friendly, educated, professional, bottom. I'd like to meet a slender, attractive, White male, around my age, who enjoys travel, dining out, and more. (Nashville) ☎12077

IBUTCH IT UP, DUDE I'm a Black male, just moved to Nashville, looking for a Hispanic or Black male, for a friendship that may lead to special relationship. I'm thin built, straight acting, Black, and nice looking. Please be straight acting also. (Nashville) ☎13329

WHEN YOU NEED IT BAD I love helping Bi and Straight males get off. I'm a good looking, discreet, White male, 5'5, 145lbs, with Brown hair, Green eyes, and a nice build. I'm into oral sex and love being a bottom. Use me. (Nashville) ☎13438

BLACK BULLDOG I want to meet attractive, White studs, under 28, who are attractive, caring, honest, and who want a relationship. This good looking, romantic, easy to get along with, 28 year old, Black male, 6'1, 250lbs, with Brown eyes, a mustache and goatee, can't wait to meet you. I enjoy movies, dancing, sports, biking, skating, and a whole lot more. (Nashville) ☎14212

GQ LOOKS This very good looking, model type, from California, in my mid thirties, healthy, and a lot of fun, seeks a gorgeous Transsexual to have lots of fun with. You definitely won't be disappointed. (Nashville) ☎14452

MOTORCYCLE MADNESS They call me big daddy. I'm a good looking, White male, 5'9, 200lbs, in search of leather men, and other studs, for fun times. I like movies, most music, dining out, and talking about motorcycles. (Nashville) ☎14689

WORK IT OUT This 35-year-old Gay male, 6', 170 lbs., is searching for another HIV-positive Gay male for friendship and fun times. I have brown hair and brown eyes and enjoy working out. I also own my own business. If you're interested, please leave me a message. (Nashville) ☎12817

DOWN TO EARTH This attractive professional White Male, 34, 5'11", medium build, with brown hair and eyes seeks a masculine White Male, 25-40, to have fun with. I like to spend quality time at home, and I'm not really into the bar scene, drugs, or anything wild. I'm looking for guys in the Nashville area only. (Nashville) ☎14822

LOOKING FOR MR. RIGHT I'm looking for gentlemen between the ages of 25 to 45. I have a medium build, medium weight. Very interested in meeting you. ☎15035



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BUTCH IS BEST This 23-year-old Female is seeking a butch Female to have a good time with. I'm a light smoker and drinker, and I enjoy going to the bars and sports. Your age is unimportant. (Nashville) ☎16672

FEMININE FOOTBALLER This 20 year old, Black female, seeks a womyn I can be friends with before we become lovers. I love sports, especially basketball and football, but I'm very feminine. (Nashville) ☎14223

I'LL BACK YOU UP I'm a 42-year-old Gay White Female, butch on the outside but feminine within. I'm a music lover, especially country, and I sing backup in bands. I'm hoping to find an older, very butch Woman to be my monogamous lover, someone who's creative, kind, witty, romantic, and loves the outdoors. I'd like to make a pen pal first, with the possibility of talking and meeting later on. (Nashville) ☎15597

LET'S TRY IT! This Bi Professional Female, early 40's, seeks an exciting, discrete Bi Female to try new things with. I like dining out, movies, and having fun with the person I'm with. (Nashville) ☎8242

LIGHT THE CANDLES I'm a tomboyish Gay White Female, 31, 5'5", 135 lbs, with blond hair and brown eyes. I enjoy the outdoors, boating, camping, movies, candle-light dinners, good conversation, and animals. I'm searching for a feminine, clean Woman over 35 who enjoys all this and more. (Nashville) ☎16648

LIVE THE FANTASIES This Professional Bi Female, 43, 5'5", 135 lbs, with long blond hair, seeks another Bi Female to go out with, watch movies, have dinner, and live out my fantasies with. Please be discrete. No butchies or Lesbians. (Nashville) ☎8242

CURL YOUR TOES This forty-plus, compact, cute, working class, soft butch, quiet womyn, in the law enforcement field, seeks a caring, sweet femme, who will treat me right. If you like animals and camping, and are seeking a committed relationship, that will curl your toes, try me. (Knoxville) ☎13200

TRAVELING THE BI-WAYS My beautiful blond, blue-eyed wife, 34, 5'9", 38D+ chest, clean-shaven, needs a Woman to teach her Bi ways. She's shy, but very willing to learn. We travel frequently throughout the Southeast. (Knoxville) ☎16251

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- **FOR THE LATEST IN LESBIAN MERCHANDISE** pls send \$1 & SASE lg envelope to Spike's Stuff, 307 Adair St C-4, Decatur GA 30030. \$1 OFF 1ST ORDER.

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- **Now Hiring:** Illusions is now hiring for all positions (bartenders, servers, barbacks, cooks) at Nashville's newest bar. Call (615) 871-0500 for an appointment.

Personals

- **GM, 6', 168,** Knoxville, enjoys music, UT sports, travel, dining out, movies, evenings at home. Seeks similar, LTR, 35-45. Romantic, sincere, caring man. I've had a viral load for 18 months. Healthy, active. ☎ 911.
- **Open the door to your mystery date:** GWPM seeks attractive, intelligent, creative, amusing GWM, 22-35 for dating fun. Isn't there someone out there who enjoys going out to the theatre or to a movie, the ballet or opera, a concert, an art opening, a cocktail party or maybe just out to dinner? This really nice guy promises he won't be a dud! ☎ 910.
- **A Man's Man:** GWM, Very active, 50, 6', 180 lbs. Attractive, rugged looks, sensitive, romantic, honest, Godly, seeks committed mate to share life and love. Strictly masculine. 30 to 40. No games. No drugs. Prefer photo. ☎ 909.
- **Nashville-area GWM, 40,** seeks GWM for dating fun. ME: Professional & hard-working, financially secure, relatively intelligent, ingratiatingly polite, healthy, with a great sense of humor and a strong sense of self—an all-around nice guy who's blond, green-eyed & 6'1". YOU: Between 21 and 40, confident, secure and in search of a good time—and it wouldn't hurt if you were great-looking and a lot of fun to be around. Write me. ☎ 908.
- **Knox GWM, 30, 5'8", 160#, HIV+, healthy.** ISO GM, 25-40 for monogamous relationship. No one-night stands. ☎ 907.
- **WM, 31,** tall, handsome seeks GWM 18-35, shy, nerdy type, for friendship. Letter/photo/phone. ☎ 905.

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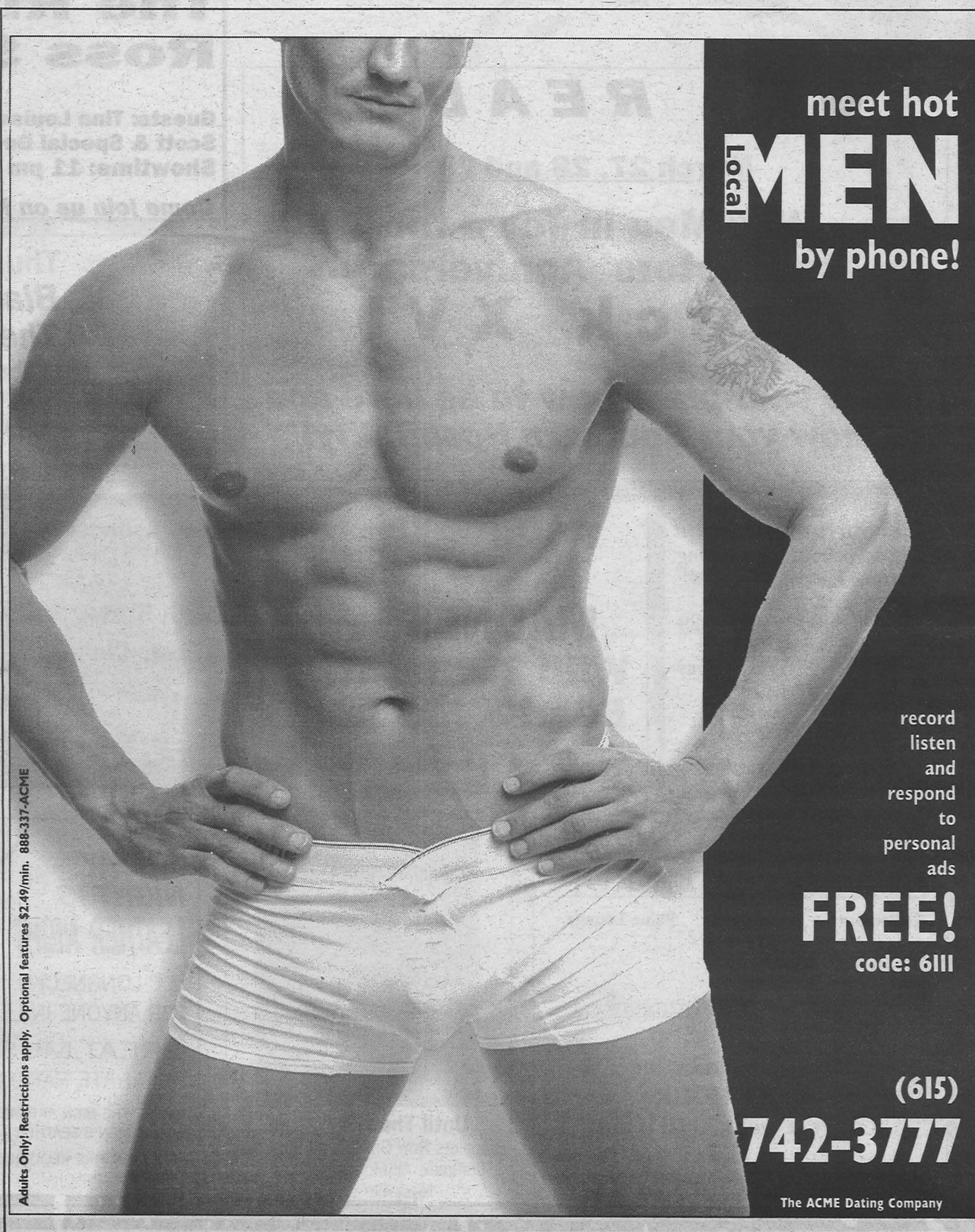
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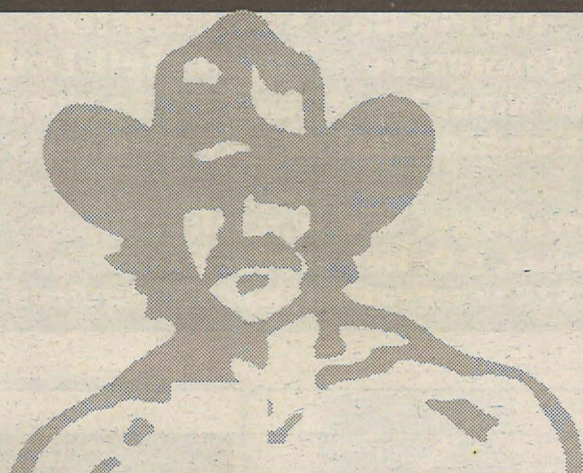
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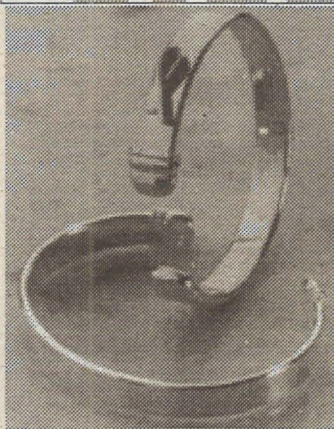
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