

Dare

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THE LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSPAPER

JUNE 1-7, 1988

Transsexual Says Kwik Sak Bigoted

Erica Knight Tells of On-the-job Harassment By Convenience Store Management

By **JEFF ELLIS**
News Editor

Transsexual Erica Knight claims she has fallen victim to harassment and discrimination at the hands of her employers at Kwik Sak, Inc.

Knight, who previously worked as an entertainer at the Cabaret, took the job at

Kwik Sak last September after an interview with John Bush, manager of Kwik Sak, number 28. According to Knight, the acts of discrimination began to occur soon after her hearing.

"When I went in for the interview, I was dressed as a boy," she said. "But I told them I was taking estrogen and there would be

some changes taking place in time."

Estrogen, a female hormone, is commonly prescribed for men who are planning to undergo gender reassignment surgery. As a part of the reassignment process, transsexuals must live as a woman for a period of time prior to surgery.

"They seemed agreeable to what I told them. They told me they thought it would be better if I just started my job as a woman. They even asked what name I would prefer to have on my name tag - Erica or Marlin, my boy name. I told them Erica," Knight said.

But soon after, Knight said, she was given a name tag with "Marlin" imprinted on it. She was told that since that was her legal name she must work under that moniker.

Other problems began to surface soon thereafter, Knight claims. Ordered to undergo a polygraph examination to determine whether she used drugs while on the job, Knight consented to the lie detector test which was administered by Brymer and Associates at their Charlotte Pike office.

Asked by the examiner if she used any drugs, Knight replied, "Yes. Estrogen."

"Estrogen?" the man replied. "That's a female hormone. Why are you taking a female hormone?"

Knight claims the examiner's insensitivity may have biased his interpretation of her answers. One discrepancy, in the area of drug use, led Kwik Sak officials to suspend Knight from her job.

However, Knight said the only thing she had taken was caffeine (in tablet form) and not amphetamines as Kwik Sak officials suspected.

"I don't do drugs. I have, in the past, but I don't anymore," Knight said, dating any

drug usage to well over a year ago. "I guess I just outgrew it."

Kwik Sak officials relented, believing Knight's claim that it was caffeine she was taking, and she returned to her job. But when she hurt her back while at work, Knight said she was denied worker's compensation benefits by the company.

After Knight contacted the National Labor Relations Board, she was paid for missing three days of work. In total, she said she missed ten days of work as a result of the back injury.

"When I went back, I was determined to prove to them I could do the job," Knight said.

When she was first interviewed she indicated a desire to move into management, Knight said. But when an opening for an assistant manager became available, she was passed over in favor of a new employee who was hired from a local Delta outlet.

"They told me during the interview that the company likes to promote from within. When the position became available, I told them I'd like to be considered. I couldn't believe they hired someone else," Knight said.

When Knight asked supervisors about the apparent snub, they told her assistant managers could not work the midnight shift. Knight had been told she would have to work the midnight shift in order to minimize the gawkers and curiosity-seekers who would likely flock to the store to see "a half man/half woman," she said.

The new assistant manager, impressed by Knight's job knowledge and professional

Continued on Page 3



Tennessee Williams, the playwright whose steamy Southern Gothic work has kept critics guessing for years about imbedded homosexual themes.

Voters' Group Welcomes Lesbians, Gay Men

By **STUART BIVIN**
Editor

Lesbians and gay men were specifically invited to join the Nashville Voters' Coalition (NVC) at a community meeting attended by members of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) last week.

The group, a loose coalition of self-described "lefty" organizations, said that homosexuals were encouraged to join NVC in its efforts to register new voters and to encourage those registered to participate in the political process by voting.

Although a nonpartisan group, NVC

made a strong showing at last winter's Democratic county and district conventions.

The coalition was represented in the caucuses for both Senator Al Gore (D.-Tenn.) and the Rev. Jesse Jackson. The Gore group succeeded in electing two NVC members to be delegates to the July Democratic National convention in Atlanta.

Paul Slentz, executive director of Nashvillians for a Nuclear Freeze, and Kate Monaghan, an advocate for the homeless, won the seats after NVC formed an alliance with other groups at the convention and divided the available seats.

Both Slentz and Monaghan attended the meeting with gay and lesbian activists, along with representatives of Senator Jim Sasser's (D.-Tenn.) re-election campaign, TKALS (Tennesseans Keeping Abortion Legal and Safe), LA CASA (a group agitating for peace in Central America), literacy groups, and the Democratic Socialists of America.

The group agreed that it would work with the lesbian and gay community to defeat those candidates who opposed the coalition's agenda on their various issues and concerns.

INSIDE

Pride Profiles:
Tennessee Williams,
immortal gay author,
page 5.

Sherre Dryden takes
another look at
David Hockney,
page 7.

Dates

June

1 Wednesday

ACT UP Nashville Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7pm.

2 Thursday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5pm.
Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 8pm.
Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Info phone 385-4776 or 352-5822. 8pm.

3 Friday

Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group Meeting, Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

4 Saturday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4pm.
The Chute *The Dena Kaye Show*. 11pm and 1am.

Great Tennessee River Raft Race Chattanooga. Info phone 615 267-7238.

5 Sunday

Metropolitan Community Church Worship services, 11am and 7pm.
The Office Co-ed softball, Mericourt Park, Clarksville. 1pm.
Tennessee Association of the Deaf Women's softball practice, Calvert Field. 1-3pm.
Pride Week Organizational meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 4pm.
New Attitude *Now, Voyager*, movie. 8pm.

6 Monday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5:30pm.
Nashville CARES Gay Couples Support Group. 6pm.
Nashville CARES Family Support Group. 6:30pm.
Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance Monthly Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7pm.
Lambda Group Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 8pm.

7 Tuesday

Nashville CARES HIV Education Support Groups. 7pm.
Al-Anon Meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.
Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC. 8pm.

8 Wednesday

ACT UP Nashville Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7pm.

9 Thursday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5pm.
Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 8pm.
Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Info phone 385-4776 or 352-5822. 8pm.

10 Friday

Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group Meeting, Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

11 Saturday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4pm.

(ACOA) Info phone 385-4776 or 352-5822. 8pm.

17 Friday

Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group Meeting, Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

18 Saturday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4pm.

19 Sunday

Metropolitan Community Church Worship services, 11am and 7pm.
The Office Co-ed softball, Mericourt Park, Clarksville. 1pm.
Tennessee Association of the Deaf Women's softball practice, Calvert Field. 1-3pm.
Pride Week Organizational meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 4pm.
New Attitude movie. 8pm.

20 Monday

Pride Week *My Beautiful Laundrette*, movie. Vanderbilt Sarratt Cinema. 5pm and 8pm.
Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5:30pm.
Nashville CARES Gay Couples Support Group. 6pm.
Nashville CARES Family Support Group. 6:30pm.
Lambda Group Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 8pm.

21 Tuesday

Pride Week *Parting Glances*, movie. Vanderbilt Sarratt Cinema. 5pm and 8pm.
Nashville CARES HIV Education Support Groups. 7pm.
Al-Anon Meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.
Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC. 8pm.
Pride Week Beer Bust Blast. Ralph's Rutledge Hill Tavern.

22 Wednesday

Pride Week *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*, movie. Vanderbilt Sarratt Cinema. 8pm.
ACT UP Nashville Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7pm.

23 Thursday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5pm.
Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 8pm.
Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Info phone 385-4776 or 352-5822. 8pm.

24 Friday

Nashville Womens' Alliance Coffeehouse. Unitarian Universalist Church.
Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group Meeting, Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

Listings

RESTAURANTS AND CLUBS

NASHVILLE		
The Cabaret	1711 Hayes St	320-7082
The Chute	2535 Franklin Rd	297-4571
Chaz Collette	407 1st Av South	256-9134
Crazy Cowboy II	2311 Franklin Rd	269-5318
The Gas Line	167 1/2 8th Av North	254-1278
Jamie's	1700 4th Av South	256-9681
The Jungle	306 4th Av South	256-9411
Now Attitude	1803 Church St	320-5154
Ralph's Rutledge Hill Tavern	515 2nd Av South	256-9682
Vicky/Victoria's	111 8th Av North	244-7256
Warehouse 28	2529 Franklin Rd	385-9689
World's End	1713 Church St	329-3480

CLARKSVILLE		
The Office	130 Franklin St	645-1157

CHATTANOOGA		
Allen Gold's	1100 McCallie Av	

ORGANIZATIONS

American Civil Liberties Union Hedy Weinberg, Director	Box 120160, Nashville 37212	256-7028
Conductors	Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Hotline	256-7028
Nashville CARES Sandee Potter, Director	Box 40261, Nashville 37204	
	Box 25107, Nashville 37202	385-1510
	AIDS Crisis Line	385-AIDS
Nashville Women's Alliance	Box 120834, Nashville 37212	366-0555
National Organization for Women (Tennessee) Elizabeth Jamison, President	Box 120523, Nashville 37212	
Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA)	Box 24181, Nashville 37212	
Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Task Force (TGLTF) Carole Cunningham, President	Box 24181, Nashville 37212	
Tennessee Keeping Abortion Legal and Safe (TKALS)	Box 120871, Nashville 37212	297-8540
Vanderbilt AIDS Project	Hotline	322-AIDS
Vanderbilt Lambda Association	Box 121743, Nashville 37212	
Women's Resource Center (YWCA)	1608 Woodmont Blvd	385-3952
SERVICES		
Jane Parker Attorney		227-3958
Jane K. Palmer, EdD Psychologist	Suite 234 B, 4004 Hillsboro Rd	298-5369

RELIGIOUS

Metropolitan Community Church Rev Paul Tucker, Pastor	131 15th Av North	320-0288
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12 Sunday

Metropolitan Community Church Worship services, 11am and 7pm.
The Office Co-ed softball, Mericourt Park, Clarksville. 1pm.
Tennessee Association of the Deaf Women's softball practice, Calvert Field. 1-3pm.
Pride Week Organizational meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 4pm.
New Attitude *Mommie Dearest*, movie. 8pm.

13 Monday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5:30pm.
Nashville CARES Gay Couples Support Group. 6pm.
Nashville CARES Family Support Group. 6:30pm.
Lambda Group Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 8pm.

14 Tuesday

Vanderbilt Lambda Association Meeting. 6pm.
Nashville CARES HIV Education Support Groups. 7pm.
Al-Anon Meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.
Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC. 8pm.

15 Wednesday

ACT UP Nashville Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7pm.

16 Thursday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5pm.
Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 8pm.
Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics

Your event or organization can be listed at no charge in *Dates* or *Listings*. Just drop a postcard or letter to **Dave**, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422, or phone 292-9623 and leave a message. Please include information about time, location, cost, sponsor, and a contact person's name with address and/or phone number for verification.

Erica Knight Says Kwik Sak Unfair

Continued from Page 1

manner, suggested that Knight would have made a better assistant manager than she.

"She said, 'You're the one who ought to be assistant manager, not me,'" Knight quoted the woman as saying.

Knight also claimed that her manager, Ida Silverman, had on several occasions made her the object of scorn and curiosity by her lack of sensitivity.

"One night she called the police because she suspected a robbery might take place. She told the police, 'we have an established homosexual working here.' They looked around and asked, 'has he already left?' She said no and pointed to me. They couldn't believe I was a man," Knight said.

Silverman was unavailable for comment at press time, although attempts to contact her continue.

Knight said she was also called to task by Silverman and supervisor Tommy Prewitt because prostitutes working in the Murfreesboro Road area frequented the store.

"I tried to treat those women with courtesy, because I was representing Kwik Sak," Knight said. "But I warned them not to let me see them propositioning customers or I would call the police."

Apparently, Knight said, Kwik Sak supervisors believed she actively recruited the prostitutes to patronize the store, a charge she labels as "false."

When Knight finally realized she was probably the victim of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, she brought this to the attention of Bob Seagraves, operations manager for the 28-store chain.

Knight claimed that Seagraves warned her against taking her story to the media, telling her that if she did, she would likely face

termination.

"If you think I've been unfair, I'll show you unfair," Knight claims Seagraves said.

Seagraves, when asked to comment about Knight's claims, said: "I've never heard of

supervisor Prewitt.

However, Seagraves said he didn't know at which store Prewitt might be found. Prewitt's territory includes several area operations. Efforts to contact Prewitt proved unsuccessful,

although one store employee said "the office could beep him."

Kwik Sak is a small corporation operating 28 stores throughout middle Tennessee. According to a company spokesperson, it is held "by a few partners, I

*"If you think I've been unfair,
I'll show you unfair..."*

Erica Knight. Oh, you mean Marlin Kitchens.

"He's a man, not a woman. But sometimes he talks like a woman."

Claiming he knew nothing about Knight's charges, Seagraves refused comment on the situation, referring questions to district

think." The chain operates stores from Columbia to Nashville to Gallatin to Murfreesboro, the woman said.

Kwik Sak does not have a policy which discriminates against gay men and lesbians, the spokesperson said.



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'Lavender Law' to Address Gay/Lesbian Legal Issues

By STUART BIVIN
Editor

Practicing lawyers from around the country will meet this fall for Lavender Law: the National Conference on Lesbian and Gay Legal Issues. The conference will convene Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 11-13, 1988, in San Francisco.

The nonprofit organizing group, working with legal service groups and individual lawyers from around the country, has invited distinguished legal scholars and practitioners to discuss topics ranging from gay and lesbian parenting issues to anti-gay and anti-lesbian employment discrimination to strategies for sodomy-law reform.

Seminars will be available in three broad areas: substantive legal issues, practice issues and organizing issues.

Substantive legal issues addressed will include free speech and associational rights, drafting of human rights ordinances, immigration policy and law and military issues.

Practice issues explored will include use of the media in lesbian and gay issues, couples' dispute resolution, representation of lesbian and gay clients in litigation involving non-gay or lesbian issues, and setting up a solo or

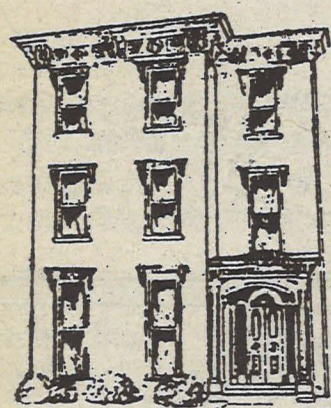
small-firm practice.

While AIDS issues will be addressed at the conference, a separate conference focussing solely on AIDS issues will be held Friday, November 11, sponsored by the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom/National Educational Foundation for Individual Rights (BALIF/NEFIR) AIDS Legal Referral Panel. The BALIF/NEFIR conference will provide support services, educational resources, technical support and legal education directed toward lesbian and gay legal-service providers as well as other minority groups and regional bar associations.

All lesbian and gay legal groups and bar associations are invited to participate and to co-sponsor the conference.

Continuing legal education format will be followed wherever possible so that CLE credit may be obtained by those whose state bars permit.

Registration fees, including program materials, will be charged on a sliding scale based on income and will range from \$30 to \$120. Although the primary focus of the conference will be legal practice, judges, law students and other legal professionals are welcome.



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The Jungle
MCC
Mills Bookstore

Lambda Rising
Washington, DC
Lodestar Books
Birmingham, AL
The Love That Dares
San Francisco, CA

Nashville CARES
New Attitude
The Office, Clarksville
Ralph's Rutledge Hill
Rare, Foreign & More
Warehouse 28

Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop
New York City
Regulator Books
Durham, NC

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Interstate Phone Sex Now Outlawed

From STAFF REPORTS

President Reagan on April 28 signed into law an amendment to the Communications Act of 1934 prohibiting any interstate communication by phone for commercial purposes that is obscene or indecent.

The amendment was introduced by Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) in December of 1987, and passed both Houses of Con-

gress by overwhelming margins. The law will go into effect on July 1.

The measure makes it a criminal misdemeanor to operate commercial phone sex lines that are interstate, international or operate within the District of Columbia. Previous restrictions on phone sex lines had imposed criminal penalties for lines which were operated in a manner allowing those

under 18 to use them. The new law also allows for the imposition of civil fines up to \$50,000 per day for the operating of such systems.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) notes that while obscenity has a clear legal meaning under a substantial body of law, "indecent communication" has not been constitutionally defined. A court case challenging the constitutionality of the law is expected.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) expressed concern about restrictions on the operation of phone sex lines for two reasons: first, in the context of the AIDS health crisis, phone sex represents totally safe sex; and second, NGLTF supports the right of adults to engage in consensual sexual behavior, free of government intrusion or punitive sanction.

"Phone sex services have mushroomed in the last few years, in part because they represent a safe sexual outlet for gay men," said NGLTF staffer and attorney Urvashi Vaid. "This vote by Congress continues a trend to enact legislation that is counter-productive in the fight against AIDS. Like

amendments which restrict the content of safe sex educational materials, this bill damages efforts to encourage creative, healthy and safe sex."

Briefs

From STAFF REPORTS

New Book Says Perry Ellis Was Gay

Noted fashion designer Perry Ellis did indeed die of AIDS, according to a new book about the designer due out this month.

When Ellis died May 30, 1986, the death certificate claimed encephalitis as the cause of death, but despite denials by the late designer's staff, it has been widely rumored he died of AIDS.

Perry Ellis: A Biography by Jonathan Moor (St. Martin's Press, \$17.95) concludes that Ellis died of AIDS, a fact hidden by the fashion industry in order to protect his lucrative business legacy.

According to Moor, the love of Ellis' life was attorney Laughlin Barker, president of Ellis' company. Barker, 37, died just months before Ellis. His cause of death was listed as lung cancer, but rumors have persisted that AIDS claimed him as well.

Moor writes: "...in the final two years of his life, Perry disposed of sums that went well into seven figures. One of their closest friends says, 'Nothing that was done in those days had any logic.'...At the end, neither of them knew what was happening; they had lost their grip of reality."

600 March in Dubuque Pride Parade

Nearly 600 lesbian and gay activists and their supporters marched in the Dubuque, Iowa, Second Annual Gay/Lesbian Pride March in what one organizer called "a dream come true."

Marchers poured into Dubuque on April 30 from the Upper Midwest, with busloads coming from Madison, Wisconsin and Minneapolis, Minnesota. Other cities represented were Milwaukee, St. Louis, Chicago, Des Moines, Iowa City, Janesville, Atlanta, New York City, San Francisco, Miami and Washington, D.C.

March organizer Stacey Neldaughter told the cheering crowd, "They said it couldn't be done. They said Dubuque can't be changed, but we will change Dubuque. This day is a dream come true for me."

Neldaughter reminded the crowd of the terrifying events at the first pride march, held on September 19, 1987, in which 30 marchers were pelted with obscenities and eggs by about 300 angry counter-demonstrators while local police watched.

This year's marchers were heckled by a few observers, but Dubuque police officials adequately staffed the event and discouraged any outbreaks of violence.

Police reported that 16 eggs were confiscated during the day. One man was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct for an egg-throwing incident at last year's march and was also charged with carrying a concealed weapon at this year's event.

Rep. Tom Jochum (D-Dubuque) addressed the rally, condemning acts of violence against lesbians and gay men. "I stand here before you today calling for an end to violence and an end to discrimination because I believe in justice. The Constitution is not negotiable," Jochum said.

NGLTF Privacy Project Director Sue Hyde told the crowd, "We gather in Dubuque today so that none of us, not one lesbian and not one gay man, ever again feel afraid to walk this city's streets. . . We have come to Dubuque to challenge it to be the best city it can be and to recognize and welcome its lesbian and gay citizens. We will return to Dubuque every year until we no longer need to."

The Dubuque Human Rights Commission has agreed to consider amending the city ordinance to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Commission chair Ken Hindman, in the Des Moines Register, said, "It's a tough problem all over Iowa. There's a real need for good workshops on homophobia."

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Pride Profiles: Tennessee Williams

By **JEFF ELLIS**
News Editor

Like Blanche DuBois, the protagonist of his *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Tennessee Williams, too, depended upon the kindness of strangers throughout his creative, troubled life.

Thomas Lanier Williams was born March 26, 1911 to Cornelius Coffin and Edwina Dakin Williams in Columbus, Mississippi. His sister Rose, born in 1909, and his brother Dakin, born in 1919, completed that branch of the Williams family tree. He took the name of Tennessee, because his given name sounded "like it might belong to the sort of writer who turns out sonnet sequences to spring."

Although Williams was brought up in St. Louis, Missouri, he may nonetheless be claimed by Tennessee, not only because of his adopted name, but because of the childhood summers spent in Memphis at the home of his grandparents. And it was in Memphis that the budding playwright's first work debuted - on a makeshift stage in his grandparent's backyard. Later, a more polished work by Williams premiered at what is now known as Theatre Memphis, his first professional-quality production.

It was from these rather humble beginnings that one of the greatest playwrights of this century, if not of all time, came to the forefront of attention in the theatre world.

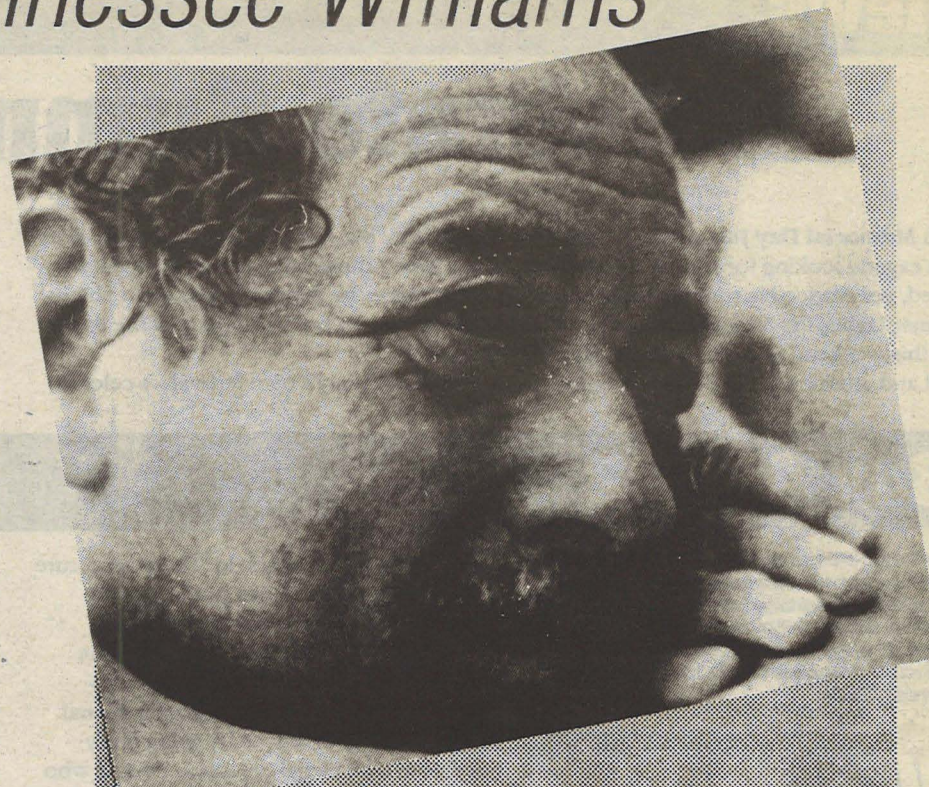
It was the work of Tennessee Williams - a homogenized version of homosexuality, drugs, family dependence, fear of women

and hatred of his masculine erotic images - which gave us such unforgettable, though slightly frightening, characters as Blanche DuBois, Stanley Kowalski, Big Daddy, Amanda Wingfield and Maggie the cat. Their lives and loves, battles and arguments, hates and happinesses are all indicative of the many shadings of the life of Williams himself. His life was a roller-coaster ride, involving many of the brightest lights of the literary and theatrical world in which he thrived.

Graduating from the University of Iowa in 1938 with a degree in English, Tennessee Williams set out to make a name for himself in theatre. In 1939, he won the Group Theatre Award for *American Blues*, a collection of short plays, and received a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.

A period of itinerancy followed as Williams travelled throughout the country gathering stories for the plays to come.

In 1945, he took Broadway by storm with his semi-autobiographical *The Glass Menagerie*, the saga of the Wingfield family - Tom, the dreamer (modeled after Williams, himself), Laura, the crippled sister (echoing Williams' sister Rose, whose schizophrenia ultimately led to a pre-frontal lobotomy), and Amanda, the matriarch (a faded Southern belle who talks endlessly of beaux and Blue Mountain). Eve La Gallienne made the role her own and Broadway audiences flocked to the Playhouse Theatre for the New York Drama Critics Circle's best play of the season.



Playwright Tennessee Williams, like Blanche DuBois in his *A Streetcar Named Desire*, always depended on the kindness of strangers.

In 1947, just as *A Streetcar Named Desire* was being readied for its New York premiere, Williams entered into a long relationship with Frank Merlo. Merlo and Williams' relationship continued, despite lurid affairs and periods of estrangement, until Merlo's death in 1963.

A Streetcar Named Desire, with its sordid story of angst set amid the sultry avenues of New Orleans, brought Marlon Brando his first taste of adulation. As Stanley Kowalski, he was the archetype of a particular kind of popular culture hero in America - an inarticulate, almost animal-like anti-hero. Blanche

it is dealt with in rather oblique terms, Williams nonetheless was among the first playwrights to create a genuine gay sensibility in his work. While many of his characters were indeed closet cases, Williams was faced with being one of the first well-known homosexuals to be mentioned, in hushed voices of course, in middle American households.

In *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, the play which made Barbara Bel Geddes a star as Maggie, much of the action turned on the repressed homosexuality of her husband Brick. But it

...the first publicly-known gay celebrity in this country rode a never-ending merry-go-round of sexual thrills and heartaches...

DuBois, the pathetic, faded Southern belle who "always depended upon the kindness of strangers," provided a frightening portrait of middle-age. It is a role that has brought acclaim for such actresses as Jessica Tandy, Vivien Leigh, Talullah Bankhead and Blythe Danner.

Although in many of his plays homosexual-

was not until 1972, with *Small Craft Warnings* that Williams dealt with homosexual themes in a more open fashion.

In between he created such dramatic successes as *Sweet Bird of Youth*, *The Rose Tattoo* and *Summer and Smoke*. And no one can forget the character of Sebastian Venable, the attractive young homosexual who was cannibalized in Corfu in *Suddenly, Last Summer*.

At times it appeared that Tennessee Williams was his own worst enemy, which is perhaps to be expected after living with the pressure of being the first publicly-known gay celebrity in this country - Truman Capote notwithstanding - and the never-ending merry-go-round of sexual thrills and heartaches. While critics berated him for being unable to create sympathetic female characters because of his homosexuality, he did create women who are memorable and almost historic.

Williams died in February, 1983 while staying at the Hotel Elysee in New York City. At the time it was speculated that he was working on still another play which would return him to the height of his form.

If all artists must pay a price for fame, perhaps Williams, being openly gay when it was less than fashionable, paid more than his fair share.

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Views

Celebrate Summer in Nashville

With Memorial Day just past, Nashvillians are eagerly looking forward to a busy, fun-filled, yet productive summer season.

Summer Lights, the Nashville festival, begins this weekend and offers a panoply of cultural and artistic events for festival-goers.

Concerts by big-name entertainers, as well as some lesser-known, but just as talented acts, performances by dance troupes and exhibits of visual arts are but a sampling of the events to come.

Our community's own festival - a celebra-

tion of our diversity - **Pride Week '88** is slated for the end of the month.

A film festival, a salute to our cultural heritage and a parade down West End Avenue are planned as we show our pride.

It seems likely that we'll all need a breather

when July rolls around. But, rest assured, next month will hold many more summertime offerings to keep us all busy.

We'll see you there!

Box 40422

Dare invites your letters and opinions, and this space is intended to serve as an open forum for the free exchange of ideas. Letters must be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Longer submissions (300-800 words) will be considered for publication in the Soapbox space. All submissions must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number for verification. The writer's name may be withheld if requested.

She Likes Us...

Dear **Dare**:

I read about your recent printing problem in *Gay Community News* and I just wanted to let you know that there are lots of us out here who wish you well even though few of us will ever let you know directly. Hang in there Sisters - oh yeah, you brothers, too. Tee hee.

Anyway, how's chances of a middle New York woman getting her own mailed subscription? It's quite difficult to pick it up locally, you see. Oh me. So, I am enclosing a SASE for your answer. If possible, I'd like to have copies of all issues, including the premiere. Can do - or no?

Take care and much love to you all.

Cynthia Day

Syracuse, New York

...He Likes Us Not

Dear **Dare**:

It is a shame that the government would consider spending one cent to combat AIDS. Those who contract AIDS will surely die

despite anything doctors do. There is no cure and will be no cure. It is a pity that some innocent people have gotten AIDS by contaminated blood transfusions. But the great majority of AIDS victims have contracted it, or will get it, by engaging in anal sex with homosexuals, or by using nasty needles to take illegal narcotics. People who do not care enough about themselves and willfully engage in homosexual acts are inviting AIDS infection and are continuing to manufacture AIDS. It has become a vicious cycle, and as long as gays continue to

have pride confused with lust and greed. They want to get their sexual thrills, as sick as the acts are, and then hope that the taxpayers will bail them out by financing a cure for AIDS. But, as I stated earlier, there is no cure and will be no cure. Sure, doctors and labs will happily take the government's money and go through the motions of research, but they will never get close to a cure - look at the facts: they can't find a cure for the common cold, and there has never been a cure found for leprosy (sic), or for certain forms of plague. All the medical

Go ahead and defy nature...take your risks with homosexual anal sex. Few people really care how many perverts die anyhow.

manufacture the infection by indecent sexual activity, how can medical science possibly eradicate it? There's no way. The only cure for AIDS is death. Those who get AIDS can blame society, or God, or the government, but they have only themselves to genuinely blame.

Ignorant gays are always talking about "gay pride," and about how they should be considered a worthwhile part of society, that they simply have an alternate lifestyle. But after they go out and contract AIDS, they don't shout so loud about pride. They want the straight people to fork over millions of dollars, find them a cure so they go back and continue the most sordid same-sex acts? Gays

world will do is keep up gays' false hopes and thereby continue to get gullible congressmen to send them easy money. But, at the bottom line, all AIDS victims simply die.

Go ahead and defy nature...take your risks with homosexual anal sex. Few people really care how many perverts die anyhow. But you at least should print a warning in your **Dare** paper: There is no cure for AIDS and never will be. Sodomize at your own risk. You call it "love." But I call it "death." Think about it on your next "date."

Dan Swansea

Raleigh, N.C.

Dare

The Gay and Lesbian Newspaper
From the Heart of the American South

June 1-7, 1988
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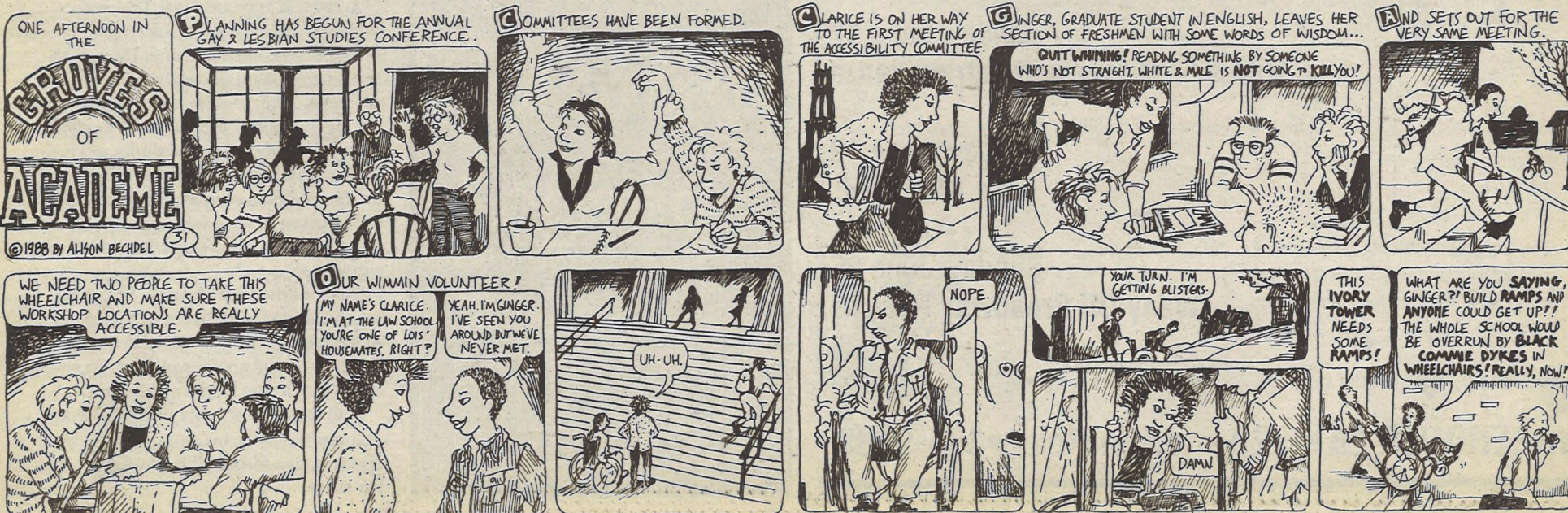
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Dykes to Watch Out For™



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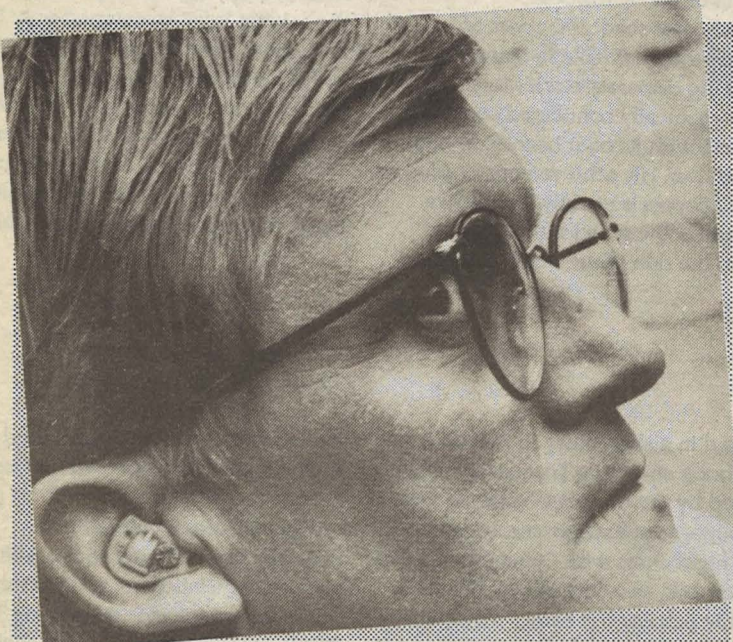
Hockney Photographs at Cheekwood

Photographs by David Hockney is at the Fine Arts Center at Cheekwood through June 12.

By **SHERRE DRYDEN**
Book Editor

If you've ever seen David Hockney's paintings, the exhibit *Photographs by David Hockney* is probably not what you would expect.

Much of Hockney's painting is, in a traditional way, photographic. In fact, Hockney began taking pictures to use as studies for paintings. Over time, his photography has become an in-



David Hockney

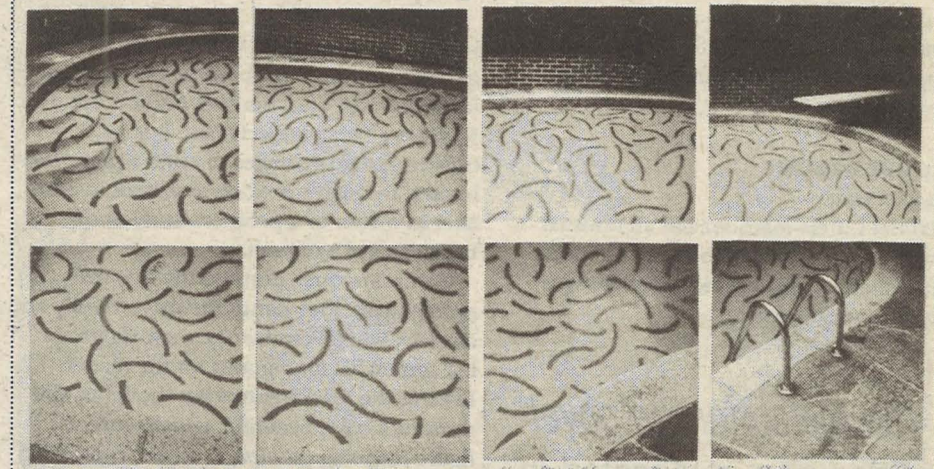
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David Hockney's A Little Bit of Rain on the Pool.

dependent medium. And it has become, in a way, unphotographic.

The photographs are actually assemblages of many standard-sized snapshots, taken mostly with a Polaroid or a Pentax 110 SLR. The 110's appear to have been developed at Barbara Mandrell's or the corner drug store. Technical skill is not the point.

In a traditional photograph, the image is "frozen." There is one point of view, little movement and no sense of time passing. Hockney changes this: "I think everything is perceived sequentially, because that is the basic mechanic of seeing. There is no way you can take everything in at the same time."

What Hockney does is paste together numerous photographs - 18 for a chair in the Luxembourg Gardens, hundreds for the Grand Canyon - of little bits of the image he wants to show. The bits sometimes make up just the thing, as if a big photograph had been cut up and put back together slightly askew. The most fascinating works, though, are more complex.

These works include multiple aspects of the same image, much as a Cubist painting represents change and motion in a static form. In *Gregory Watching the Snow Fall*, Hockney reconstructs most of the scene fairly realistically, but there are three views of

Gregory's shoulders and head.

In *Ian Washing His Hair*, the subject's hands are shown in the tub, poised between his head and the water and on his head.

Hockney's photographs are cinematographic. The viewer stands in one place - Hockney's place, as indicated by such evidence of his presence by the tips of his shoes or a film package. Instead of the picture moving, the eyes edit, providing the tempo, cross-cutting between images, zooming in for close-ups and lingering over details.

In one sense the fact that there is no space between the viewer and the image plunges the viewer into the photograph and makes her a participant into the creative event. In another sense, though, the photographer's constant presence is a reminder of the artificiality of the image. We can't think for a minute that these photographs are reality - they are only one perception of reality.

Viewers looking for explicit references to Hockney's homosexuality will be disappointed. There is only one male nude and no beautiful young men lounging around azure-colored swimming pools. But nothing is hidden, either. Christopher Isherwood and Don Bachardy are there, as is Hockney's former lover, Peter Schlesinger.

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Pages

Garcia-Marquez' New Cholera: The Lovesick Triangle

Love in the Time of Cholera. Gabriel Garcia-Marquez, translated by Edith Grossman. [New York: Knopf, 1988]

By **JOE MAROHL**
Staff Writer

Gabriel Garcia-Marquez has an unusual narrative style, which blends Faulknerian descriptiveness and mythic sense of place with Kafkaesque irony.

The metaphor the novel builds upon, suggested in the title of the book, is love-sickness...

It is as if Faulkner had married Kafka and they had had a boy. This, of course, is impossible. Garcia-Marquez was born in 1928, when Faulkner was just inventing Yoknapatawpha and Kafka was already four years dead, and besides Faulkner and Kafka never met.

Nevertheless, the magic realism of Garcia-Marquez's wonderful stories and novels derive from a sense of history, circular and absurd, real and quixotic, also found in the fiction writing of the early part of the century.

His latest novel to be translated into English, *Love in the Time of Cholera* (originally published in Spanish three years ago), is the story of a love triangle that lasts more than 50 years. The central figure of the triangle is Fermina Daza, the object of two men's love, two men who represent two different ways of existence.

Dr. Juvenal Urbino de la Calle, the handsome, aristocratic and modern-thinking physician, fails in his struggle to raise the scientific consciousness of the backward Caribbean city he lives in. Despite his steady and usually persuasive manner, the Misericordia Hospital, where he chooses to work in his father's footsteps, stubbornly clings to outdated practices such as "standing beds in pots of water to prevent disease from climbing up the legs, or requiring evening wear and chamois gloves in the operating room because it was taken for granted that elegance was an essential condition for apsesis."

Nevertheless, the long-suffering doctor does find success in marrying Fermina Daza and lives happily with her and their children for many years.

Florentino Ariza, on the other hand, is homely and romantic, the sort of lover to

serenade his true love in the middle of a graveyard in spite of showers and to remain faithful to her, after his own fashion, for over 50 years after she rejects him. It is he, however, who manages to build a place for himself through his work, as a clerk in and later as owner of a prosperous riverboat business and as a poet.

Garcia Marquez portrays the two male protagonists' love pangs the more vividly and directly, while Fermina Daza's feelings are left somewhat ambiguous for the reader. Even as the reader enters her thoughts, she remains a cold, beautiful, usually serene figure inspiring passion in others, repressing her own.

There are other characters (too many to number), bizarre characters whom the author

only gradually makes fully human: a bloated woman poet who must suck a pacifier as she makes love, an old woman whose mind fails her and who assumes the name and identity of a character out of a children's story, a riverboat captain who jealously protects the lives of manatees even to the point of his being imprisoned, and a crippled photographer with a disgraceful past and a secret love-life who kills himself, accompanied voluntarily in death by his dog.

Anyone who has read *100 Years of Solitude* knows already Garcia-Marquez's skill in weaving disparate stories together to suggest an organically connected community, complete with its own history, mythology and tradition. His achievement in *Love in the Time of Cholera* is equally impressive.

The metaphor the novel builds upon, suggested in the title of the book, is love-

sickness (that diagnosis of medieval medical science now perceived simply as an emotion), which has the same symptoms, we are told in the book, as cholera, which was epidemic in the Caribbean at the end of the last century. All of the characters suffer from one sickness or another, and the similarity of effects is the basis of the novel's artful resolution.

Like all good books of its sort, this one revives every ache the reader has ever felt for the sake of love, sweetened only by the thought of how human, how like life to suffer for love is. Love brings one much more affliction than solace, more vulnerability than strength or security. But, for all that, the novel also depicts the often silly magic of love to change ugliness into beauty and make fools of even the most dignified cynics.

Breakfast at Truman's

Capote: A Biography. Gerald Clarke. [New York: Simon and Schuster, 1988]

By **JOE MAROHL**
Staff Writer

In 1985, two biographies of playwright Tennessee Williams and one of photographer Cecil Beaton gave me my first concept of Truman Capote the person, an important supporting player in both Williams' and Beaton's lives.

The picture of him painted in those pages was not pleasant. I was already familiar with the raspy-voiced, impish persona Truman portrayed on television. What were surprising to me, however, were his sordid and unhappy sense of sexuality (he liked being beaten by homophobes), his infantile sense of fun (he played pranks which were capable of crippling careers, if not also bodies), and his petty vindictiveness (his unnecessary personal attacks on Jacqueline Susann on *The Tonight Show*, for instance). Granted, this picture was somewhat slanted, taken from the not-always-sympathetic perspectives of Williams and Beaton.

What must certainly be admitted, though, is, except for Jackie Onassis and Andy Warhol (both of whom Truman knew well), Capote lived the most glamorous and decadent life of the century. Truman Capote's life was full of gossip, wealth, and prestigious names to drop that Gerald Clarke's new biography of the writer and infamous personality reads like the world's largest issue of *Vanity Fair*. (As a matter of fact, the April *Vanity Fair* excerpted Clarke's book for a feature on Capote's "swans," the rich Galateas he amused himself with and

later betrayed in a short story in *Esquire*.)

Clarke's book shows us Truman as a child being bullied by the tomboyish Harper Lee in south Alabama, as teenager sneaking into Manhattan night clubs with Oona O'Neill and Gloria Vanderbilt, as a copyboy at *The New Yorker* bodily helping the nearly blind James Thurber through his copulations with one of the magazine's uglier secretaries, chumming with Carson McCullers and Katherine Anne Porter at Yaddo, becoming a recognized authority on the American penal system as he researched *In Cold Blood*, throwing one of the world's most famous masked balls in the mid-1960s, and endlessly quarreling with his lovers, betraying his friends and promoting himself through the literary equivalent of *Wrestlemania* with writer Gore Vidal.

Name one other person who can boast of having sex with Albert Camus, Errol Flynn and John Garfield. Name another major American writer who's been in a Neil Simon comedy or hired a hit man to break his lover's arms and legs with a baseball bat.

Trite as it is to say, Capote was such a man full of contradictions. The one mind produced, after all, such divergent works as the frothy *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, the bleak *In Cold Blood* and the sweetly sentimental *A Christmas Memory*.

I found Clarke's biography most interesting in its treatment of Truman's relationship with his highstrung mother and its chronicle of Truman's efforts in writing *In Cold Blood*. Considering Truman spent half his life endeavoring to shock the world and the other half spreading nasty gossip about his acquaintances, this biography is disappointingly empty of juicy details. On the other

hand, Truman himself publicized almost all the juicy details in his own lifetime, so for Clarke to repeat them would be perhaps redundant, albeit entertaining.

Clarke does attempt to account for the writer's contradictions and portray the book's thesis statement, that everything Truman was (his success, his neurosis, his shallow worship of glittering wealth) was the result of his mother's neglect of him as a child. The point seems appropriate in some parts of the book, strained and simplistic in others.

I found reading about the latter part of Truman's life to be particularly painful and embarrassing. (I had a similar reaction to reading about Tennessee Williams' pathetic decline.) Truman was never entirely successful in composing endings for his longer writings.

The final chapter of *The Glass Harp* was a hurried job to get the novel over with and published. The conclusion of *In Cold Blood* was a slight misjudgment (and, inappropriately, a fiction) intended to give the downbeat story of the six deaths in Kansas a humanistically cheerful slant. His intended masterpiece, *Answered Prayers*, never found a conclusion in the 25 years the writer labored on it. And as Clarke depicts the last decade of Capote's life, it was a sad, sordid and incongruent anticlimax, too.

Here is the story of a man who wrote one irrefutable masterpiece and several very remarkable shorter works. Here also is the story of a man who never could find enough love or enough adulation and who may ultimately be remembered mainly as the century's most perfect archetype (as if it needed one) of the Tragic Fairy.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vanderbilt Lambda Association will meet Tuesday, June 14 at 6 p.m. Lambda is open to students, faculty, staff, administrators and alumni of Vanderbilt University. Further information may be obtained by writing: VLA, Box 121743, Nashville, Tennessee 37212.

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PERSONALS

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Diane, hope the sun's rays didn't beat down on your cute little bones too fiercely at the Women's Music Festival! Love and kisses! Guess who?

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BiWM wants to hear from gay men and lesbians. Please include ph #. Huett, Box 40851, Nashville, TN 37204