

FROM THE HEART OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH

FREE

Dare

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 13

THE LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSPAPER

JUNE 15-21, 1988



The Atlanta Constitution carried the story of the Memphis lesbian murder case that rocked the country in 1892. See story on Page 6.

Commission Wants AIDS Czar

By JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Meeting last Tuesday to finalize wording and details in its report to President Reagan, the President's Commission on AIDS delayed until this week some of its toughest decisions - including one to create an AIDS czar.

The commission, making a slow and deliberate progress through the report's 269 pages, met nonstop for eleven hours in Washington hammering out the 579 proposals included in the report.

Thursday the commissioners reconvene to consider proposals including giving the surgeon general broader powers to fight AIDS, giving him a mandate to "declare war on AIDS."

Considered by many to be the report's most daring proposal is the recommendation that Surgeon General C. Everett Koop be charged with emergency public health powers. However, many predict that President Reagan's endorsement of that recommendation is unlikely.

"It is much too controversial in a bureaucratic sense," said Jeff Levi, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

Commissioner Cory SerVaas, publisher of the *Saturday Evening Post*, is calling for

mandatory testing of persons living in areas with high levels of the disease.

"I want a whole chapter on prevention. We have skirted the issue by hiding behind public officials who have failed abominably to protect the public," SerVaas said.

However, any attempts at mandatory testing of any individuals will likely meet with strong opposition, not only from AIDS activists but from other commissioners as well, experts predict.

Proposals for statutes regarding criminal punishment for those accused of transmitting the virus will also be considered. Commissioner Frank Lilly questioned the validity of such statutes: "We don't want to put this in the legal process. These are poor creatures who can't quite get it together."

Urvashi Vaid, spokesperson for the Washington-based NGLTF last week said, "We are against any move to criminalize AIDS."

Among other proposals in the report are approval by Congress of anti-discrimination protection for people with AIDS and the \$3 billion annual budget the commissioners advise is necessary to do battle with the disease.

"The anti-discrimination pieces will be very helpful in the House," said openly-gay
Continued on Page 2

"Queer-bashing" on the Rise in U.S.

Study Shows Increase in Anti-Gay/Lesbian Violence

By JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Acts of violence and harassment aimed at lesbians and gay men rose dramatically in 1987, according to a study released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task force.

More than 7,000 incidents were reported to NGLTF during 1987, an increase from some 4,900 such reports in 1986. These incidents included verbal harassment, intimidation, assault, police abuse, vandalism, arson, bomb threats and murder, NGLTF reports.

Reported incidents "are just the tip of the iceberg, but it's still a scary number," said Kevin Berrill, director of NGLTF's Anti-violence Project.

Locally, activists point to the April 30 vandalism of the home of the pastor of the local Metropolitan Community Church. The east Nashville home of the Rev. Paul Tucker was "a shambles" following the incident during which vandals ransacked the apartment, defacing the walls and destroying electronic equipment.

Although NGLTF officials concede that part of the rise may be attributed to an increase in reporting (1987 reports came from 32 states as compared to 27 states reporting in 1986), they indicated a genuine increase in threats, vandalism and beatings.

"While our report does not claim to measure the full extent of anti-gay/lesbian harassment and violence in 1987, available data clearly demonstrate that the problem continues to be severe," Berrill said.

In March, a hotline to track discrimination against lesbians and gay men was established by the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee. According to executive director Hedy Weinberg, the ACLU will use the hotline to document incidents of harassment and discrimination in the areas of community-police relations, employment, housing, health care, insurance and AIDS-related problems.

"These episodes occur at a time of widespread attacks against members of the Arab, Asian, black, hispanic, Jewish and native American communities. Regardless of the group targeted, any attack motivated by bigotry is intended to violate and isolate not just the victim but all those who are different," Berrill said.

The draft report issued last week by the President's AIDS Commission addressed the issue of increased AIDS-related hate crimes

and said, "This type of violence is unacceptable." According to the NGLTF study, AIDS was a factor in 15 percent of incidents reported.

Last month, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Hate Crimes Statistics Act which requires federal collection of statistics on crimes motivated by prejudice based on "race, religion, homosexuality or heterosexuality and ethnicity." Berrill praised the bill's passage in the House as "an overwhelming victory which is not only exciting but historic."

Berrill suggested that "higher visibility" of lesbians and gay men may account for the increase in "homophobic attacks."

"There's much more awareness now that gay men and lesbians exist than 10 or 15 years ago," Berrill said. "We're now much more visible to people who hate gays and lesbians."

While incidents reported in 1987 are 42% higher than in 1986, it is unclear to what extent the rise reflects an increase in victimization or an increase in reporting or both. The reported violence was perpetrated by lone individuals, gangs and organized hate groups, and occurred in a variety of settings, Berrill said: "On the street, in school, on campus, in jail and prison and even in the home."

Among incidents mentioned in the 1987 study of anti-gay/lesbian hate crimes are:

- A gay man with AIDS was assaulted by three young men in Long Beach, Calif., resulting in the young man's hip being

Continued on Page 3

INSIDE

New column
AIDS Update,
page 5.

That Strange Girl
Alice Mitchell,
a Memphis lesbian
in 1892,
page 6.

Briefs

300 March in New Jersey Pride Parade

By JOHN WARD
Special to Dare

TRENTON, N.J. - An estimated 300 lesbians and gay men converged on the New Jersey State House here on Sunday, June 5, to demand passage of the state's gay rights bill, which has languished in committee since its introduction four years ago.

Dressed in purple and white and carrying balloons, banners and rainbow flags, they kicked off Pride Month by listening to speeches spliced with musical interludes at the Garden State's first statewide gay pride event.

Many of those who spoke attacked New Jersey Gov. Tom Kean, a Republican, for keeping mum on the bill, despite the fact he is trumpeting his *Politics of Inclusion*, his new book.

"New Jersey and You - Perfect Together...is the echo of our silent governor," said Charlie O'Brien, president of the 225-member Gay Activist Alliance of Morris County, the state's largest gay group. He was lampooning the theme used to promote the state in commercials which have featured Kean.

As the rally marked the eve of the state's June 7 President Preference Primary, campaign fever also surged through the crowd. Representatives of both Michael Dukakis and Jesse Jackson spoke along with National Alliance Party standard-bearer Lenora Fulani.

Speaking for Dukakis was Boston lawyer Vin McCarthy, who has campaigned for Dukakis among gays nationwide, while Phil Reed, who ran as an openly gay candidate for the New York State Senate two years ago and who leads the city's Minority AIDS Task Force, spoke for Jackson.

Generating strong enthusiasm was Fulani, now on the ballot in 50 states. She urged registered Democrats to vote for Jackson in the primary and then to switch to her in the general election, saying that Dukakis is anti-gay and no better than Bush.

Afterwards, Fulani said that gay leaders who endorse Dukakis have done so because they are beholden to the Democratic Party and are out-of-touch with the gay rank and file.

In response to charges in the gay press that the National Alliance Party is a cult that is using gays, Fulani said, "I'm not brainwashed. Why have the people writing these articles and making these charges never called me up?"

As to the gay rights bill, organizers of the March say they are resigned that it is staying put in committee in the Republican-dominated House until after next year's gubernatorial and legislative races. Their strategy is to raise enough money to hire a professional lobbyist and to focus on ousting anti-gay lawmakers as well as to continue the grassroots pressure launched by the march on Trenton.

Appeals to Reconsider Historic Ruling

From STAFF REPORTS

February's historic court ruling that struck down the Army's ban on homosexuals will be reconsidered by a San Francisco federal appeals court, it was reported last week.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted a request from the Reagan administration to refer the case to an 11-member panel for a hearing.

On Feb. 10, a court panel ruled 2-1 that 1981 Army regulations calling for discharge on the grounds of homosexual orientation is unconstitutional. Until then, the armed services' right to base discharges on homosexual conduct had been upheld by the courts.

The landmark ruling came as a result of a case involving Perry Watkins, 39, who joined the Army in 1967 at the age of 19 and told recruiters he had homosexual tendencies.

The appeals court said the Army's regulations went further into the realm of personal privacy by applying to sexual orientation, regardless of conduct. Further, the court said homosexuals, as victims of historic mistreatment, were entitled to the same constitutional protection against government discrimination as racial minorities. No other appellate court had ever reached that decision.

Leonard Graff, legal director of National Gay Rights Advocates in San Francisco, while expressing dismay at the developments nonetheless hailed the original decision "as cause for celebration."

"The struggle for equal rights for lesbians and gay men is a long-term struggle. Realistically, we have to expect some setbacks. That doesn't mean we give up," Graff said.

Commission to Issue Final Report

Continued from Page 1

Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.). "I plan to thank Watkins on the floor. I admire what he is doing."

Frank was referring to Adm. James Watkins, the career Navy man who took over as chair of the commission last fall. He has been lauded by AIDS activists and critics alike for his "fair, even-handed" leadership of the commission.

Bills banning discrimination in jobs, housing and public accommodations are slated for hearings in both the House of Representatives and the Senate later this summer.

Anti-discrimination protection was removed from the House HIV testing and counseling bill by sponsor Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) before being considered in subcommittee. However, such protection remains intact in the Senate bill (SB 1575) sponsored by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.).

According to staffers in Kennedy's office, Senate Republicans are fairly unified in their opposition to anti-discrimination protection.

"Creating a new protected class gives them problems," a Kennedy aide said. "They view it as gay rights."

The commission's report is viewed with trepidation by some members of congress, including Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.) who testified before the commission during its March hearings in Nashville.

Dannemeyer's appearance before the

commission was greeted by pickets and the interruption of his testimony by lesbian and gay activists who were objecting to what they called his "homophobic" stance on the AIDS issue.

Dannemeyer told the commission that anyone with the virus or who is openly gay should be denied federal anti-discrimination protection. He is now leading the fight in the House to ensure such exemptions.

Paul Mero, spokesperson for Dannemeyer, expressed fear that the commission's report will restore anti-discrimination protection to Waxman's bill, suggesting that Watkins timed the report's release to do just that.

"Who knows the mind of men? Any of the AIDS special interest groups could have written this report," Mero said.

Still, the draft report issued last week is expected to undergo little, if any, revision when commissioners reconvene to finalize the wording. Coming at a time when both sides of the AIDS battle have begun to rally, the report may serve as an impetus for both, activists predict.

"I am hesitant to say it will roll back Helms, but it goes far beyond anything we could have hoped for," said Jean McGuire, executive director of the AIDS Action Council. "We intend to use it aggressively on Capitol Hill."

"It is a tremendous boost in the right direction," agreed Tom Sheridan, lobbyist for the Child Welfare League.

NEW ATTITUDESM

Sunday night is Movie Night, 8 pm
Join Barry, friends and other critics for the way it was.

Sunday, June 19
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Coming June 26 *Boys in the Band*

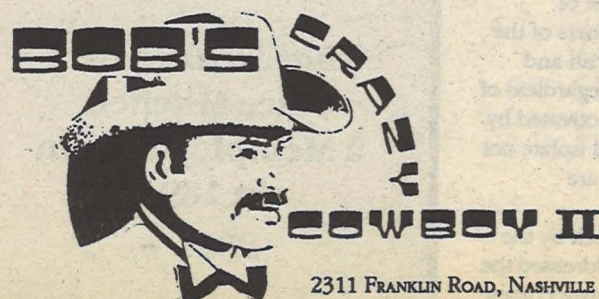
Seven days 4 pm - 2 am 1803 Church Street 320-5154

The Towne House Restaurant

Friday and Saturday Dinner 5:30-10:30pm
Sunday Brunch 11am-2:30pm
165 Eighth Avenue North • 254-1277

The Gas Lite Lounge

Monday - Thursday 4:30 pm - 1 am
Friday and Saturday 4:30 pm - 3 am
Sunday Noon - 3 am
167 1/2 Eighth Avenue North • 254-1278



25-CENT DRAFT
Wednesday 7 pm - 11 pm

BEER BUST
Saturday 4 pm - 8 pm
Sunday 3 pm - 7 pm

2311 FRANKLIN ROAD, NASHVILLE • 269-5318 • OPEN 3PM-1AM

Anti-gay, Anti-lesbian Violence Also a Problem Locally

By JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Incidents of harassment or violence directed toward gay men and lesbians in Tennessee appear to be on the upswing, according to figures released by the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA).

The T-GALA study, which was among those included in the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force report, indicated that a number of the Nashville incidents involved beatings and assaults with weapons. Nationally, some 835 physical assaults were reported while in Nashville 13 such incidents

were recorded.

"The numbers reflected are only a tiny fraction of the true extent of the problem," said Gerry Scoppettuolo, coordinator of the Anti-Violence Anti-Discrimination Project of T-GALA.

Local figures were gathered from a mailing to 150 gay men and lesbians in the area, although it is estimated that more than 30,000 Nashvillians are gay or lesbian.

"Since one out of three in our sample of 100 report threats of physical violence, the true number of actual incidents of this nature in Nashville is in the thousands," Scoppettuolo said.

tuolo said.

In Nashville, 61 incidents of harassment/threats of violence were indicated; the number statewide is 74. Four instances of vandalism were reported in Nashville, with only one other vandalism report statewide.

Employment discrimination appears to continue in Nashville with eight respondents saying they had been refused employment because of their sexual orientation. Seven cases of demotion were reported in 1987; 12 people were pressure to resign from their jobs; 18 were harassed on the job; and 11 individuals were terminated because they

were gay or lesbian.

"The number of threats and beatings and job discrimination in Nashville alone should be a cause of public concern. It is clear that violence and discrimination against gay people in Nashville is condoned by the silence of most governmental spokespersons," Scoppettuolo said.

Scoppettuolo cited examples of "dehumanizing ridicule" on local radio programs and "letters to the editors of local newspapers asserting that God would want to punish gay people by death" as indicative of the homophobic mood in the midstate area.

NGLTF Says Violence Up

Continued from Page 1
broken and other injuries.

- A heterosexual male tourist in San Francisco was stabbed to death because his assailant mistakenly perceived him to be gay.
- In Shelby, N.C., several men believed to be members of the White Patriot Party entered a gay-oriented adult bookstore, shooting five men, killing three.
- A man in Philadelphia brutally assaulted a lesbian in a local bar after she told him her sexual orientation.
- Three youths wielding Chinese "throwing stars" stormed into a Fort Wayne, Ind., gay bar and assaulted patrons.
- In California, lesbians and gay men received envelopes marked "AIDS TEST RESULTS: PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL." The message inside the envelope: "POSITIVE, YOU BUM."
- In North Carolina, a cross was burned outside the home of a gay man who led an AIDS support group.

Screens

Bette and Lily Mean Big Fun in Big Business

By JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Bette Midler and Lily Tomlin are both hilariously funny in what will surely be one of the summer's biggest movie hits, *Big Business*, the tale of mismatched twins and corporate shenanigans that opened nationwide last Friday.

But that is not to say that *Big Business* is unflawed. Like most film comedies, it tends to be a bit quirky and a little slow-moving while telling its story of the two pairs of Sadies and Roses. Luckily, Midler and Tomlin transcend any of the film's shortcomings and are delightful in the dual roles.

Midler plays both Sadies - one a corporate executive with a New York high rise and a wardrobe to put Joan Collins to shame; the other is a West Virginia farmgirl with a randy appetite for men and a penchant for watching *Dynasty* reruns. The role appears tailor-made for Midler who camps and cavorts as she plays both Sadie Shelton and Sadie Ratliff to the hilt, even trying her voice at a yodel.

Yes, Bette Midler yodels - with both a down-home and a Caribbean flavor - giving us a veritable international musical feast.

Tomlin shines as both Roses - one a babe-in-the-woods corporate bungler who loves animals and dreams of a cottage surrounded by a white picket fence and inhabited by throngs of children; the other is a hill country firebrand, who apparently was influenced by Sally Fields' *Norma Rae* character and is determined to save her beloved Jupiter Hollow hamlet from the ravages of strip mining.

Tomlin, in a superb display of versatility, is able to give both characters life with her unerring range.

Opening to the strains of Benny Goodman's "Sing, Sing, Sing," the movie transports us back to the forties and the sight of two mothers going into labor in the West Virginia backwoods near Jupiter Hollow. When the rich mother-to-be - a world-weary New York socialite - is refused admission to the hospital because it is for employees of the Hollow Made Furniture Company, her husband promptly buys it. The poor mother-to-be, already with a passle of kids back home, arrives matter-of-factly for the birthing ritual.

The opening is rather broadly drawn and

the characters lack much dimension. If anything, they are downright stereotypical. If not for the promise of Midler and Tomlin to come, the opening might well turn you off.

But when you fast forward to the '80s and get your first glimpse of Midler sashaying out of the elevator, all shoulder pads and corporate treachery, you know you're in for a funny, if still somewhat predictable, time at the movies.

You are immediately immersed in a tale of big business, with the two Southern twins arriving to do battle with the two New York twins, unbeknownst to each other that they are indeed sisters. It is a series of near-misses and mistaken identities that follow. Sure, it's all been done before, but not by Midler and Tomlin.

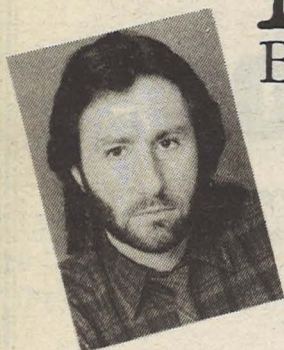
It is definitely their movie and at time the peripheral characters are lost in the shuffle. But, come to think of it, they don't really add much to the movie. There is a pair of corporate execs who are gay and forever at the mercy of the shoulder-padded New York Sadie - they're pretty typical movie fags and don't do much to advance our cause - if you know what I mean. Fred Ward plays Boone Denick, Rose's West Virginia beau who happens to be a putt-putt champion. The miniature golf jokes are funny, but Ward's character could easily have been left on the cutting room floor as could Barry Primus and Michael Gross as the men in the New York twins' lives. They just got in the way of the monkey business in *Big Business*.

Big Business is fun. It is not one of the funniest movies I've ever seen - for number of sheer laughs, my money is still on *Hairspray* - but it nonetheless gives us an opportunity to see Bette Midler and Lily Tomlin together.

The pairing of the two is a natural. They both seem unafraid of appearing silly and sometimes slapsticky. Still, they are able to give deft characterizations.

For Midler and Tomlin alone, *Big Business* is a must-see movie.

Mills BOOKSTORE



We now have Robert Ferro's
Second Son, a visionary novel
about the triumph of two men over
disease and a transcendent parable
of hope and love.

Mills Bookstore Hillsboro Village
1817 21st Avenue South 383-5520

Rebel Hill FLORIST

- Award-winning Designers •
- Balloon Bouquets • Fruit and Gourmet Baskets •

833-8555
4825 Trousdale (at Blackman)

Sue Hyde on the Movement in the South

By **DEBORAH BURKS**

Staff Writer

Sue Hyde directs the Privacy Project of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). The repeal of the sodomy law in Tennessee has been targeted by the Privacy Project, therefore Sue has played a significant role in coordinating that effort in the state. I spoke with her at the recent Southern Women's Music Festival where she presented the workshop "Lesbian Visibility and Political Action".

Burks: Give us some background on Sue Hyde, both before and after joining NGLTF.

Hyde: I lived in St. Louis from 1973-1983 and for seven of those years, worked as a women's music producer. Then I began writing for a local lesbian and gay newspaper. My girlfriend moved to Boston, and while visiting her in the fall of 1982, I applied for a job at *Gay Community News* (GCN). Through writing for GCN, I really got educated about the lesbian and gay political movement and got more and more excited about doing queer political work. After leaving GCN, I continued to live in Boston for another 2 years working in various grassroots organizations such as the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee which formed to overturn the foster care policy in Massachusetts. Then this position at NGLTF opened and my friend Urvashi Vaid begged me to apply. I applied but thought, "They will never hire me. I'm too radical and they're too much of a mainstream organization." But, they hired me and so I had to change all my opinions about the organization.

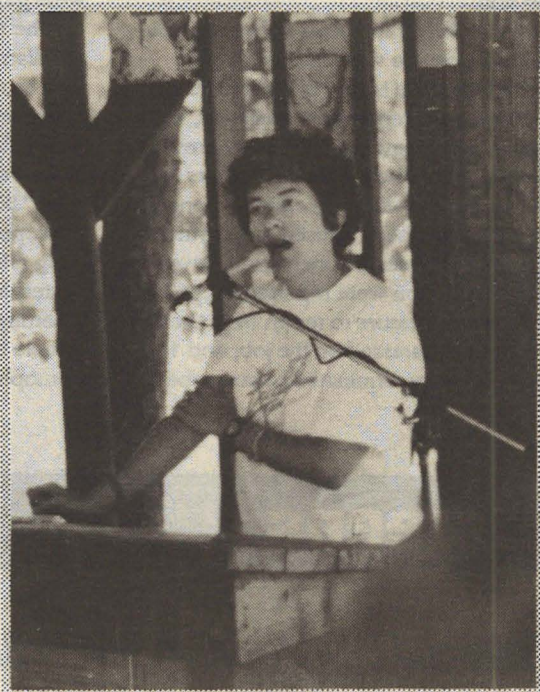
B: Unlike most people, your job relates directly to your personal politics. Given the time and energy you expend on politics, do you ever experience burn-out?

H: I sometimes get tired of it, especially all the traveling. My work is very exciting, though. I would rather be doing this than anything else and I feel very fortunate to have my job. As a friend in Boston says, I'll know I'm burned out when I no longer feel lucky to have this job.

I think it's important for people to take breaks and I'm a pretty good vacationer. I really can go a whole evening without discussing queer politics. Learning to relax is a skill that those of us who do political work, particularly those who do it on a non-paid basis, need to develop. The work can consume your whole life and that's what burns people out. We will all stay with it longer if we learn to set our work aside and make time for other things. Working for change is a lifetime job; we aren't going to fix the world in a couple of years. Those of us in the movement must learn to pace ourselves and to set limits on how much we can do. This will be good for individuals and our organizations.

B: Your work with the Privacy Project has recently focused on the South. How does the lesbian and gay political movement in the South differ from other regions of the country?

H: Well, the issues here are much the same as those in other areas of the country. My theory is that the existence of the close-knit family structure in the South makes the



Sue Hyde, wearing a Nashville Pride Week '88 T-shirt, speaks to a group at the Southern Women's Music Festival

movement here different. For people who live in the South, particularly for native Southerners, to come out as a queer and to have a political focus which seeks to change the way the world deals with us is to go against the whole kinship system. Lesbians and gays in the South have to betray their families and often go through a period of isolation. Because coming out in the South is perhaps a longer, deeper process, lesbian and gay organizing has not been as vigorous here.

However, the existence of the black civil rights movement in the South has given people a collective experience of change that will have a positive impact on other kinds of social change such as the lesbian and gay rights movement.

My other theory about the South is that it is an alienated region. The Northeast and California, for example, are economic and cultural centers and they are also the areas where the movement is the strongest. Having the experience of being in a center is helpful to any minority trying to organize. Having an alienated region like the South creates an extra burden for organizers which people in other parts of the country don't have to carry.

B: Since lesbian and gay activists do cluster

in large, economic or cultural cities, how do you propose that the lesbian and gay movement will affect change in smaller cities and rural areas?

H: The changes that people in rural areas observe in metropolitan areas serve as models. I think the process is already happening in small cities and large towns where gay men and lesbians are organizing. Since the March on Washington, there have been many organizations formed in smaller communities. However, the whole problem of smaller communities in rural areas is one that as a movement we must address.

B: At your workshop you said that lesbians would not be satisfied with "piecemeal legislation and other handouts from society." You urged us to push for more. What changes do you think will satisfy lesbians?

H: Transformation of culture! I really do believe that lesbians have a different understanding of cultural ecology - of the way people do and don't fit together and live together. Lesbians have this whole way of making alternative community which gay men and straight feminists need to learn from us. The kind of social change that will make this culture safe for queers is not going to come about through civil rights legislation or sodomy-law repeal. It is going to happen by not only changing straight people's attitudes but also showing them a more complete, healthy way to live their lives. That's what the battle is about between the right wing and the gay and lesbian political movement; it's the battle over the vision of how we

choose to live and conduct our lives.

I also don't think gay men see the vision, particularly white, middle-class gay men. When they put on their suits, they look just like the powerholders. They have many economic privileges and access to "goodies" of the system which lesbians, particularly "out lesbians," don't ever have. I think lesbians need to be about the task of showing gay men that these "goodies" handed out to them by the dominant culture are just pay-offs which have nothing to do with improving the quality of life for masses of gay people or poor people or black people.

B: Are these women's festivals compatible with your vision of change?

H: I think festivals such as this Southern Women's Music Festival are a snapshot of how we would like our lives to be. It's a very warm community. I don't think there's a woman here who fears for her safety. The spirit of this festival is what I hope women take home to their communities.

The March on Washington inspired people to take up work of social change on a local level. And the March was another snapshot - a snapshot of the collective power of our community. Here at the festival we have a snapshot of a safe community. When we create these snapshots, we make the reality more possible. To have this festival be a reality for a weekend or the March be a reality for just a day is why we do the work we do - we want to make our dreams possible.

Subscribe.

Don't miss a single issue of **Dare**.

Send your name, address and check or money order for \$31.20 to:

Dare

Box 40422

Nashville, TN 37204-0422

We'll send you **Dare** for a full year.

Whaddya waitin' for?

Juanita's
B A R

Open 11 am - 3 am

Beer Bust

Wednesday 7 pm - 11 pm

Saturday 2 pm - 6 pm

Sunday 5 pm - 8 pm

25-cent draft

1700 4th Avenue South 256-9681

Sunday, June 19, 10 pm

Western Jamboree Night

Live Western Band

Nashville Numbers Benefit Sunday, June 26



2-for-1 Happy Hour
5pm-8pm Every Day

Sunday Night Dinner Special
8 Oz Filet, vegetable of the day,
choice of potato, and tossed
salad \$4.95
Serving Dinner
5-10 Tue-Thu, 5-11 Fri-Sun

Home of Billy Bob's Grill & General Store
2535 Franklin Road, Nashville 297-4571

Nashville CARES. Won't you care, too?

Nashville CARES
Box 25107, Nashville, TN 37202
615 385-1510



Take a Dare.

Allen Gold's, Chattanooga
Cabaret
The Chute
Chez Colette
Crazy Cowboy II
Crystal Castle
Davis-Kidd Booksellers

Glad Day Bookshop
Boston, MA
Giovanni's Room
Philadelphia, PA

Dragonfly Books
The Gas Life
Juanita's
The Jungle
MCC
Mills Bookstore
Nashville CARES

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

New Attitude
The Office, Clarksville
Ralph's Rutledge Hill
Rare, Foreign & More
Tobacco Corner News, Memphis
Tower Records & Books
Warehouse 28

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

More locations soon!

Every Tuesday, 11:30 pm
STARS '88 Talent Search
Starring Alexis Spaulding

Every Wednesday, all night
50-Cent Night
50-cent draft, wells, wine and schnapps

Every Thursday, 11:30 pm
Summerstock

Coming Events

Sunday, June 19
Mrs. Fun

Sunday, June 26
Waay Off Broadway Returns

WAREHOUSE 28 • 2529 Franklin Road • 385-9689

Men to Sing for Women's Choice

By **STUART BIVIN**
Editor

Tennesseans Keeping Abortion Legal and Safe (TKALS) has announced the birth of *Nashville Men Sing for Women's Choice*, a concert to raise money and awareness for the group and its goals.

The group has sponsored *Women Sing for Choice*, its fall fundraiser, for the last thirteen

years, and plans to do so again this year.

The men's concert came about when a group of men approached TKALS leadership after last year's women's concert with the idea, according to Patsy Owens, a member of the group's board of directors.

The concert is scheduled for the Cockeyed Camel in Belle Meade, Saturday, June 25, at 9 p.m.

AIDS Update

By **SANDEE POTTER**, Ph.D.
Special to *Dare*

This is the first of a biweekly series devoted to AIDS education and the work of Nashville CARES and the Vanderbilt AIDS Project. Contributors to the column will include: Gene Copello, Bob Keller, Tommy Powell, Ruth Sheets and me. The column will also be used to answer any AIDS-related questions that *Dare* readers may wish to submit (questions can be mailed to me at Nashville CARES, P.O. Box 25107, Nashville 37202).

The first two weeks of June have proven to be busy ones: Chairman Watkins of the Presidential Commission on the Human Immunodeficiency Virus Epidemic has released his final policy recommendations; the national mailing of Understanding AIDS has arrived in Nashville; and the Nashville CARES bus education campaign, funded by Gannett, is well under way.

The bus campaign involves signs on the sides of Metro buses as well as inside the buses that inform passengers that they can receive more information on AIDS by phoning Nashville CARES at 385-AIDS. These bus signs will be on buses during the month of June and then again in September. The Gannett corporation paid for the printing of the signs and readers may be interested to know that signs appearing on the sides of buses are referred to as "queens" by the companies that print them.

Both the national mailing and the bus campaign have increased the number of phone calls at the CARES office requesting AIDS information. The most common questions center around confidential testing and what an individual can do after being told that he/she has test HIV-positive.

There are several addresses and phone numbers of confidential testing sites in the area:

Nashville/Davidson County Health

Department

311 23rd Avenue North
Nashville 37203
(615) 327-9313

Rutherford County Health Department
303 N. Church Street
Murfreesboro 37130
(615) 898-7880

South Central Regional Health Office
1216 Mt. Pleasant Pike
Columbia 38401
(615) 381-3661

Williamson County Health Department
1324 W. Main Street
Franklin 37064
(615) 794-1542

Nashville CARES will sponsor an informal gathering at the CARES office on Friday, June 24, with Martin Levine. Dr. Levine is an internationally recognized authority on the sociological aspects of AIDS, sexuality and homosexuality. He edited *Gay Men: The Sociology of Male Homosexuality* and has written for both the professional and the popular press. He developed and taught one of the first undergraduate courses on AIDS in the country and is presently writing a manual on AIDS education. Levine serves as adviser to the President's Commission and has also testified before the U.S. Congress, the Colorado state legislature and the New York City Council. This event is free and open to the public. For specifics, phone the CARES office after Monday, June 20.

Nashville CARES hopes to have a booth during the Pride Festival at Centennial Park on Saturday, June 25. Please phone me at the CARES office if you are a CARES volunteer and would be interested in helping with the booth.

Sandee Potter is executive director of Nashville CARES.

Chez Colette

Presents

Legends

Showtime Saturday at 10 and 12

Happy Hour Mon-Fri 4 - 7

Thu 7-11, 25-cent draft

Food Available

Our patio is now open.

407 1st Avenue South 256-9134



EMBASSY TRAVEL

We
specialize
in personal
service.



615 383-1870

TN Toll Free 800 548-1031

3415 West End Ave, Suite 1

Nashville, TN 37203

Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat 10am-2pm

That Strange Girl:

First in a three-part series

By **SHERRE DRYDEN**
Entertainment Editor

At 4:30 on the afternoon of January 25, 1892, 19-year-old Alice Mitchell murdered Freda Ward, 17.

The murder occurred in Memphis, where Freda, her sister Jo and Christina Parnell were walking along the levee. The Wards were to take a steamboat to Gold Dust, where they lived with their married sister, Mrs. W.H. Volkmar.

Alice, in a buggy with Lillie Johnson, followed Freda for several blocks. When they reached the north side of the custom house, Alice jumped out of the buggy, leaving Lillie with the reigns, and ran after Freda.

Alice caught Freda and pulled her around. She drew the straight razor she'd taken from her father out of the folds of her dress and slashed Freda's cheek from eye to mouth. Her next slash opened Freda's chin to the bone.

Freda fell and tried to escape. Jo tried to stop Alice, who also slipped on the snowy walk, by beating her with an umbrella. In the confusion Alice cut Jo's neck and her own hand.

Alice recovered. She took Freda by the hair, exposing her throat, and slashed again. The cut extended from ear to ear, and through the spinal cord, nearly beheading Freda. She was dead in minutes.

Alice looked at Freda lying bleeding near the railroad tracks and said to Lillie, "I have done it." She jumped into the buggy and drove home.

Alice (or Allie as she was sometimes called) was arrested at her family's home at 415 Union Street shortly after the murder. Lillie went to jail the next day. Alice told police she killed Freda because she loved her and could not bear to live without her.

Lillie said Alice told her, "I have cut Fred's

throat. I don't know whether I killed her or not, but I loved her so I couldn't help it." Alice refused to let Lillie wipe the blood from her face. "It's Fred's blood and you know how I loved her."

In an interview with reporters Lillie said that Allie was infatuated with Freda, and the two had been intimate friends. Mrs. Volkmar discovered Alice and Freda's "unnatural affection" and asked Alice's mother to intervene. Since then, Alice and Freda had not spoken.

Lillie added that Allie often said she "wanted to marry Fred." When told that such a union was impossible Alice declared, "Then I'll marry no one."

The story of Alice Mitchell and Freda Ward filled Memphis papers. The murder was covered in Nashville, Atlanta and New York as well as other cities in the region. So avid was interest in the case that Memphis journalists often reported that there was nothing to report.

Although there was some early denial that the murder could be a crime of passion—reporters cited Freda's uncomplimentary remarks about Alice as a possible cause and briefly speculated that a man must be involved—little attempt was made to cover up the facts as they became known.

From the first day, newspaper accounts included phrases like "unnatural passion," "abnormal love," and "perverted passion." The *Public Ledger* in Memphis called the case "a tragedy equal to the most morbid imaginings of modern French romances." On January 28 the *Memphis Commercial* ran an editorial endorsing the view that Alice must be insane, citing Balzac and Adolphe Belot for support. Belot found, they said, that such passion "when pursued interruptedly leads with unerring certainty to insanity and to death."

Memphis reporters fairly salivated when it

was learned Alice and Freda had exchanged letters, which were variously rumored to be in the possession of Alice's lawyers or the prosecution. Column after column was devoted to Lillie's *habeus corpus* hearing, incidents from Alice's past were dredged up and similar cases were reported: "Another Resemblance: But This Time It Is Between Men"; "Instances Multiply: Mobile Develops a Case That Has Peculiar Characteristics."

Editorial writers for other papers (reprinted by the *Memphis Commercial* when there was nothing else about the case to print) were puzzled. "The case is one of those which ought to be removed from the public mind as soon as possible."—*Paducah News*.

"It is a pity that Memphis cannot build a wall around this case and shut out the view of it from the balance of the country. The knowledge given to youth by the publications concerning it...is very dangerous, and is sickening to every well constituted man and woman"—*Chattanooga Press*.

"A crime whose sickening details have been well discussed"—Durant, *Mississippi Democrat*.

"It is an ugly and a deplorable case. It is nauseating, sickening, demoralizing and deplorable"—*Nashville American*.

But there was a strong rivalry among the Memphis papers, and every evidence of lesbianism increased Alice's chances of being declared insane and saved from the gallows.

It was revealed that three years before, Alice was infatuated with 15 year-old Clara Bailey. Clara's uncle, C.H. Hubbard, reported that while visiting relatives in Covington, Kentucky, Alice met Clara. Alice hugged and kissed Clara and told her how much she loved her. When Alice left for home she would put her arms around Clara and say "Now you must imagine that it is your lover kissing you." She once declared that she would marry Clara. When Hubbard heard the

story he forbade Clara to see Alice again. The *Commercial* followed this story with accounts of "similar cases" including that of Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby, the "ladies of Llangollen."

The defense, too, was desperate to get its hands on Freda's letters to Alice. The only possible explanation, since Alice had admitted killing Freda, was that their contents would strengthen their contention that Alice was insane.

Her insanity, said "eminent" physicians, probably took the form of erotomania. Erotomania was described as a "peculiar condition of the mind that prompts an unnatural affection between two persons of the same sex." Memphis doctor E.P. Sale called erotomania a minor type of insanity that does not necessarily destroy its victims' sense of right and wrong or lead to homicidal mania. "If Alice Mitchell unnaturally loved her victim and through jealousy killed her, she would stand much in the legal relation of a jealous man who had killed his rival or his sweetheart."

Although newspapers had speculated that something confirming Lillie Johnson's complicity in the murder would be revealed at her *habeus corpus* hearing, counsel concentrated on proving her innocence while also finding out as much as possible about Freda and Alice's relationship.

Alice had always said that Lillie was uninvolved. She was surprised when Lillie





was brought to jail. "Well, Lillie, have you come to visit me?" Alice asked. "No," Lillie said, "I am under arrest for murder." "Why, what did they arrest you for? You had nothing to do with it," Alice said. Still, Lillie was held without bail.

The prevailing sentiment was that if Alice had killed Freda out of love it was, in the words of the *Public Ledger*, "a deed so totally unnatural as to preclude the idea that Alice was in a state of mind which would enable her to commit murder in the estimation of the law." At Lillie's hearing—if not before—enough came out to convince everyone concerned that Alice and Freda had been lovers.

Alice said on January 26 that she loved Freda desperately, that she could not live without her. Long ago, Alice claimed, she and Freda had made a pact that if separated they should kill each other.

On January 28 Alice's lawyers appear to have leaked information to the press. The account, "learned from good sources," is of counsel's interview with Alice in which she revealed she had asked Freda to marry her. "I killed Freda because I loved her and she refused to marry me. I asked her to marry me three times and at last she consented. We were going to marry here and go to St. Louis."

When asked what they would do in St. Louis, Alice didn't know. "But when Freda promised to marry me I was so happy. I sent

her an engagement ring and she wore it for a time, but it was returned to me and I was miserable. I could not bear to be separated from her and I resolved to kill her. I would rather she were dead than away from me."

At the same time it was reported that Alice's letters to Freda were full of endearing terms and showed that Alice eagerly looked forward to the time when they could be married. Freda was said to have willingly consented to the union. Reporters revealed on January 31 that the postmaster in Covington, Kentucky, had received a letter from two women in Memphis. They had heard that marriage was easy in Kentucky and asked if they could be married if they eloped to Covington. The postmaster, thinking the letter was from a crank, threw it away. Readers were assured the letter was sent by Alice.

The stage had been set, so no one was surprised with the line of questioning Alice's lawyers took with Lillie, Freda's sister Jo and Christina Parnell.

Accounts of Lillie's hearing, complete with drawings of the victim, the protagonists, their counsel and the police made the front page for three days. Attention was given to the newly redecorated courtroom, the clothing worn by all involved and the fact that over half the spectators were women, "some stylishly dressed, some pretty and some

decidedly curious, but without claims to a prepossessing appearance."

Jo Ward confirmed that their sister, Mrs. Volkmar, had forbidden Freda to communicate with Alice after she discovered in August that the two were engaged. Jo testified that at one point Freda had her bag packed and was dressed and ready to go to Memphis to marry Alice. They would then go to St. Louis where Alice would dress as a man and take the name Alvin J. Ward. Freda wore a diamond engagement ring Alice gave her.

Jo never saw Alice and Freda's letters, but she stated that the two embraced and kissed and were constantly together. "Wherever you saw one you saw the other," she said.

Christina Parnell was with Freda and Jo when the murder occurred. She testified that at first she thought Alice was kissing Freda. Then she saw the blood. She also identified Freda's handwriting in a letter to Alice:

Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 18, 1892, Monday
Dear Allie—I love you and always will,
but I have been forbidden to speak to you,
and I have to obey. You say I am as much to
blame as you are. If I have done you any
harm, or caused you any trouble, I humbly
beg your forgiveness.

Please don't let anyone know I wrote this.

No one knows about that last summer business except our family; that is, unless you have told someone. We go back to Gold Dust this evening. —Fred.

"Always" was underlined several times.

Lillie Johnson was also questioned about Alice and Freda's relationship. She stated that Alice frequently cried after the two were separated and continually proclaimed her love for Freda. She testified that she thought Alice was going to kiss Freda good-bye when she jumped from the buggy. Alice had just said, "Lil! Did you see Freda wink at me?" After she was back in the buggy, Lillie said, Alice asked her, "What is the quickest way to kill myself?"

Lillie was awarded bail on February 27, but not because the judge thought she was innocent. Judge Julius J. DuBose, in charge of the case from the start, wrote, "the court is clearly of the opinion that the proof is evident that the defendant [Lillie] aided and abetted in the commission of the crime." Lillie was released because of her delicate health, but a *Commercial* reporter commented, "As she stepped across the sidewalk to the carriage, she moved with a sprightly step for one so ill."

Next week: Alice's sanity hearing

The Alice Mitchell MURDER CASE

Dates

June

Your event or organization can be listed at no charge in *Dares* or *Listings*. Just drop a postcard or letter to **Dare**, 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.

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.
AI-Anon Meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.
Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC. 8pm.
Pride Week Beer Bust Blast. Ralph's Rutledge Hill Tavern.

15 Wednesday

ACT UP Nashville Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7pm.
Gay and Lesbian Parents' Support Group Organizational meeting, 164 8th Av North, Suite 201. Info phone 646-7225.
Support Group for Lesbians and Gay Men Meeting. 8pm. Info phone 833-4598.

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

22 Wednesday

Pride Week *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*, movie. Vanderbilt Sarratt Cinema. 8pm.
ACT UP Nashville Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7pm.
Affirmation (United Methodist) Monthly potluck. 7pm. Info phone 366-6448.
Support Group for Lesbians and Gay Men Meeting. 8pm. Info phone 833-4598.

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.

27 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.

28 Tuesday

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

29 Wednesday

ACT UP Nashville Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7pm.
Support Group for Lesbians and Gay Men Meeting. 8pm. Info phone 833-4598.

30 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.

Listings

Restaurants & Clubs

Juanita's
 1700 4th Av South
 Nashville
 256-9681

Ralph's Rutledge Hill Tavern
 515 2nd Av South
 Nashville
 256-9682

Allen Gold's
 1100 McCallie Av
 Chattanooga

Chez Collette
 407 1st Av South
 Nashville
 256-9134

The Jungle
 306 4th Av South
 Nashville
 256-9411

Victor/Victoria's
 111 8th Av North
 Nashville
 244-7256

The Cabaret
 1711 Hayes St
 Nashville
 320-7082

The Gas Lite
 167 1/2 8th Av North
 Nashville
 254-1278

New Attitude
 1803 Church St
 Nashville
 320-5154

Warehouse 28
 2529 Franklin Rd
 Nashville
 385-9689

The Chule
 2535 Franklin Rd
 Nashville
 297-4571

Crazy Cowboy II
 2311 Franklin Rd
 Nashville
 269-5318

The Office
 130 Franklin St
 Clarksville
 645-1157

World's End
 1713 Church St
 Nashville
 329-3480

Dates

17 Friday

Sexaholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC. 5pm.
Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group Meeting, Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

18 Saturday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4pm.
Metropolitan Community Church Mortgage Meal, all you can eat. 7:30pm. \$5.

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.

24 Friday

Sexaholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC. 5pm.
Nashville Womens' Alliance Jamie Anderson and Martie van der Voort, coffeehouse. Unitarian Universalist Church. Info phone 883-4833. \$4.
Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group Meeting, Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

25 Saturday

Pride Week Parade, leaves Fannie Mae Dees Park at 12:30pm.
Pride Week Festival, Centennial Park. Music, food and crafts. 1pm. Free.
Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4pm.
Metropolitan Community Church Mortgage Meal, all you can eat. 7:30pm. \$5.
Pride Week *Homosexuality and the Bible*, Church and Community Forum, Metropolitan Community Church. 8:30pm. Free.
TKALS (Tennesseans Keeping Abortion Legal and Safe) *Nashville Men Sing for Women's Choice*, concert. Cockeyed Camel Pub. 9pm.

26 Sunday

Metropolitan Community Church Worship services, 11am and 7pm.
Pride Week Pride Picnic, Edwin Warner Park, Hwy 100, Site #9. Noon.
The Office Co-ed softball, Mericourt Park, Clarksville. 1pm.
Tennessee Association of the Deaf Women's softball practice, Calvert Field. 1-3pm.

Pride '88
You'll Come Out Now, Y'hear!

1 Friday

Sexaholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC. 5pm.
Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group Meeting, Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

2 Saturday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4pm.
Metropolitan Community Church Mortgage Meal, all you can eat. 7:30pm. \$5.

3 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.

July

Organizations

American Civil Liberties Union
 Hedy Weinberg, *Director*
 Box 120160, Nashville 37212
 256-7028
Lesbian & Gay Anti-Violence Hotline 256-7028

Conductors
 Box 40261, Nashville 37204

Nashville CARES Sandee Potter, *Director*
 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 37202

Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Task Force (TGLTF)
 Carole Cunningham, *President*
 Box 24181, Nashville 37212

Tennesseans 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

Listings

Views

Naming Names Is Our Job

We got a phone call that disturbed us this week. It was from a woman who was upset that we had printed her name in the *Sociables* column in last week's paper.

Why we hadn't contacted her to get her permission to use her name?

The answer is that she had participated in a public event, thus making herself a public figure and susceptible to public knowledge of her participation in that event.

Besides, can you imagine how difficult it would be to try to contact everyone whose name appears in *Dare*? Or any other newspaper, for that matter?

More importantly, that's not how newspapers function. Our readers count on us for

news, not for a list of those who have asked to see their names in print.

In fact, as the conversation developed, it became apparent that she wasn't displeased to be mentioned. She had no problem with being recognized by those who know her by her initials or who were involved in the events which were covered in the column. Instead, she was unhappy that her full name had been used, rather than her initials or her first name only.

In fact, she asked that we identify her in the future by either her first name alone or by her initials, and intimated that she would no longer work in the community if we would not agree to her demand.

This is unacceptable.

Our policy is to cover the news as it happens. Like any reputable newspaper, our policy is to use pseudonyms only when protecting an individual's safety or privacy. We do not use initials or first names only in any event.

We are happy to refrain, as we have in the past, from printing the names of those who are not in the public eye.

And that is the issue here. Those whose names we print have somehow been in the public eye.

And that - not their sexuality - is what makes them newsworthy.

Box 40422

Dear *Dare*:

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I've recently moved here from Dallas, Texas. I've been very impressed by your publication and the direction that Nashville activism has moved since the March on Washington.

I lost my partner of nine years in October of 1986, after a long struggle with AIDS. Needing support to get over this painful loss, I helped organize a surviving partners group through a counseling center than offers a buddy program to PWAs much like Nashville CARES. This is where most of my energy was focused during 1987. As a gay person, losing one's mate presents challenges that one never considered before. I learned a lot about myself. I came to understand how little we really have in terms of just basic human rights afforded every man and woman in this country, supposedly.

I went to the March largely to see my partner Kyle's panel in the NAMES Project Quilt. It was a deeply moving experience. A magic carpet that wove so much sorrow and joy and life's expression into its fabric. A person was brought to such a deep, quiet place.

The entire weekend brought a lot of my ideas into a firm setting. I bonded very tightly

with several of our delegation from Dallas. After we came home we wanted to keep that energy moving. I worked toward that goal and finally organized a group - GUTS (Gay Urban Truth/Terrorist Squad) that has been very successful since November in waking the Dallas community up to some of the problems of the gay community. The media, local and national, has give us great support. The War Resistance League has been very helpful in working with us to successfully utilize non-violent strategy.

My company transferred me to Nashville recently. I've got a lot going on in Dallas; however, I'm seven hundred miles away. A person can work toward his goals anywhere. That's my intention. I've sat in on some ACT-UP meetings and I love their direction. My path seems to be toward gay rights activism that's not completely locked in on AIDS issues. That's what my inner voice seems to be saying. Dallas has an activity scheduled for gay pride week that I've pushed very hard to pull off. I'd like to participate at the local level in Nashville.

On Monday the 20th, as many same-sex couples as possible will arrive at the license bureau of city hall and demand they be issued licenses since their tax dollars are paying for the service. They will refuse to

leave until issuance. Is there support for such an action in Nashville? This is our time. We must sieze the moment. The straight media can now be sympathetic to the AIDS crisis (it sells a lot of print); but, I'm amazed at how we are tuned out on other issues. The lack of coverage of the largest civil rights March in history is amazing. We have got to turn the focus to other issues. Our basic issues: the AIDS death toll hype is getting old. I'm exaggerating, but I've got a point.

At the March I was very fortunate to meet the organizers of the wedding, Carey Junkin and Walter Wheeler, founders of Couples, Inc., out of Los Angeles. They've done tremendous work campaigning for lesbian and gay couples' rights. I received a call tonight from Carey informing me that Walter died suddenly and unexpectedly this past weekend. Please mention his passing and the loss to our community in your paper if possible.

Thanks for this moment. I hope we can meet at some point in the near future. If you know any bodies that would like to risk possible arrest with me on Monday in June, send them my way!

Gary Bellamy
Nashville

Dare

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

June 15-21, 1988
Volume 1, Number 13

Editor/Publisher
Stuart Bivin

Managing Editor
Jeff Ellis

Entertainment Editor
Sherre Dryden

Staff Writers
Deborah Burks
Carole Cunningham
Curt Folts
Harrison Hicks
Joe Marohl

The *Dare* logotype was designed by Rusel Brown. *Dare* copy is set in Garamond, with Aachen Bold heads and Helvetica Condensed Oblique Light subheads.

Dare is published weekly by Pyramid Light & Power, Box 40422, Nashville, Tennessee 37204-0422, (615) 292-9623. Subscription rate: \$31.20 per year. Please phone for ad rates.

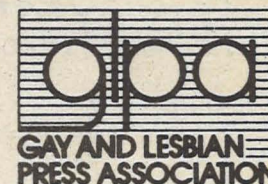
Postmaster: Send address changes to:

Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422.

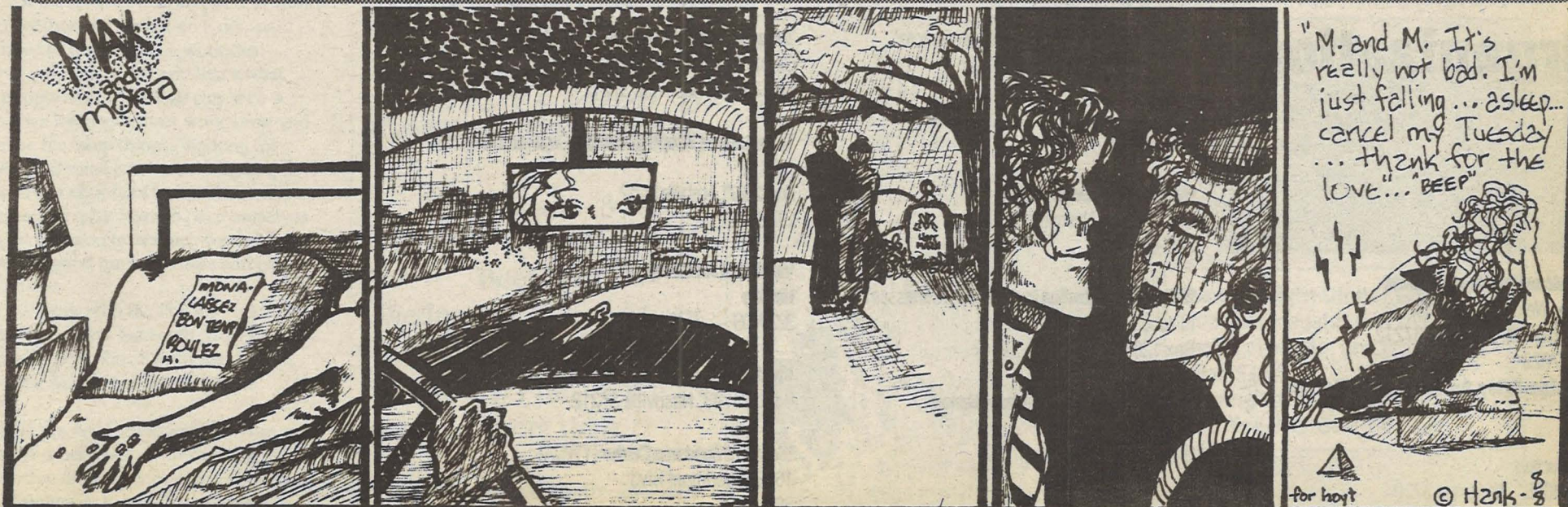
Dare and the *Dare* logo are trademarks of Pyramid Light & Power. Entire contents and design of *Dare* Copyright ©1988 by Pyramid Light & Power. All rights reserved. Reproduction, either in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited without the express written consent of the publisher.

Publication of the name, photograph or other likeness of any person or organization in *Dare* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual, religious or political orientation, practice or beliefs of such person or members of such organization. The opinions of this newspaper are expressed only in editorials. Any views expressed in any advertisement, signed column, letter, article or cartoon are those of the author or artist and do not necessarily reflect the positions of *Dare*.

Dare is an institutional member of the Gay and Lesbian Press Association.



Max and Mona™



Pride Week '88

Don't miss Nashville's first
Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade
Meet at Fannie Mae Dees Park
Saturday, June 25, 12:30pm
Be there or be straight.

Monday, June 20

- *My Beautiful Laundrette*, movie, at
Vanderbilt Sarratt Cinema,
Showtime 8 pm.

Tuesday, June 21

- *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*, movie, at
Vanderbilt Sarratt Cinema
Showtime 5pm and 8pm only.
• Beer Bust Blast,
Ralph's Rutledge Hill Tavern.

Wednesday, June 22

- *Parting Glances*, movie, at
Vanderbilt Sarratt Cinema.
Showtimes 5pm and 8pm.

Friday, June 24

- Women's Alliance Coffeehouse,
Unitarian Universalist Church,
1808 Woodmont Blvd.

Music, wine, beer, nonalcoholic beverages, and fun!

Saturday, June 25

- Pride Parade and Festival

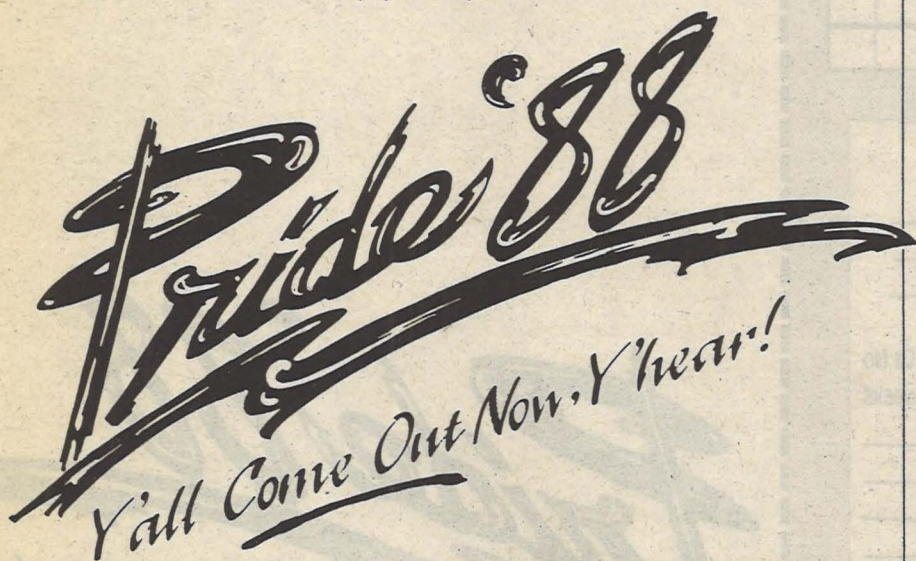
Parade leaves Fannie Mae Dees Park at 12:30pm and heads to Centennial Park for an afternoon of food, music and crafts!

- *Homosexuality and the Bible*,
Church and Community Forum,
Metropolitan Community Church,
131 15th Avenue North, 8pm.

Sunday, June 26

- Pride Picnic

Come to Edwin Warner Park
on Hwy 100, Site #9,
for a "family" potluck picnic. Noon.



Pride Week '88 is proudly sponsored by:
The Cabaret*, The Gas Lite*, NOW, Ralph's*, T-GALA,
Warehouse 28*, and World's End

*Pride Week '88 Souvenir merchandise available Friday and
Saturday night. Buttons \$1 Mugs \$2 T-shirts \$10

Screens

Pride Week Film Preview

I've Heard the Mermaids Singing, *Parting Glances*, and *My Beautiful Laundrette* will be shown as part of Pride Week '88 at Vanderbilt University's Sarratt Cinema. See Dates on Page 8 for a complete listing of times.

By SHERRE DRYDEN
Entertainment Editor

I've Heard the Mermaids Singing

I've Heard the Mermaids Singing, Patricia Rozema's first feature-length film, centers on daydreaming Polly Vandersma (Sheila McCarthy), a self-described "organizationally impaired" typist.

Polly takes a temporary secretarial job at a Toronto art gallery, where she quickly develops a crush on its director. Gabrielle (Paule Baillargeon) is a rather arrogant pseudo-intellectual who secretly longs to be recognized as an artist herself. Unfortunately for Polly, she discovers (by secretly videotaping them) that Gabrielle is already involved with another woman.

Most of the movie is from Polly's perspective, developed out of videotapes she makes of herself talking about herself. She's her own biggest fan, and for about the first half-hour of *Mermaids* she's whimsically endearing. Before long, though, her hero(ine) worship of Gabrielle becomes too much to bear.

In one incredibly embarrassing scene in a Japanese restaurant, she orders what turns out to be a raw, purplish mass of tentacled seafood. Her behavior by this time is neither whimsical nor endearing - it's merely silly.

The best thing about *Mermaids* is Rozema's willingness to suspend reality for a few surrealistic touches. The worst thing is the sense that Rozema finds Polly embarrassing, too.

Parting Glances

Parting Glances isn't about homosexuality. It isn't, really.

It's not about AIDS either, even though all of the main characters are gay men and one of them has AIDS.

Michael (Richard Ganoung) and Robert (John Bolger) are lovers with a nice apartment, good bodies and a comfortable relationship. Nick (Steve Buscemi) was Michael's lover and is now terminally ill. Although a specific disease is never mentioned, we all know he has AIDS.

Parting Glances (directed by Bill Sherwood) is the story of the day before Robert leaves to take a new post in Africa. It's a very busy (but believable) day that includes shopping, Michael's visit to Nick, dinner with Robert's boss, Robert's good-bye party and a trip to a gay bar.

Robert, Michael and Nick are all absorbed in themselves - as people are likely to be. They talk about their relationships, worry about their friends, have some rather banal conversations.

The supporting characters - the maternal fat woman in charge of the party, the sleazy queen (also fat), Robert's boss (who decides to go to Sri Lanka to check out the boys), the tattooed woman and her husband Klaus - are quirky and neat and interesting.

The ending, too, is interesting. In a lot of ways, *Parting Glances* is a Hollywood romantic triangle with extra men substituted for some of the women. But the conclusion, by having something to say about placing solidarity over the personal, about what being gay means, makes *Parting Glances* more than just a love story.

My Beautiful Laundrette

My Beautiful Laundrette isn't about homosexuality either. (Although it does include two of the most erotic gay scenes ever filmed for a not-about-homosexuality movie).

Director Stephen Frears is more political than Bill Sherwood (director of *Parting Glances*) and *Laundrette* is about social class and money and politics.

Johnny (Daniel Day-Lewis) is a bleached-blond tough. His boyhood pal Omar (Gordon Warnecke) is the son of an impoverished Pakistani writer (Roshan Seth) and the nephew of a gaudy entrepreneur (Saeed Jaffrey).

When Uncle puts Omar in charge of a run-down laundromat (laundrette, in British), Omar steals a cocaine delivery to finance the renovation. He hires Johnny as his assistant and the two - well, they become close.

Frears and screenwriter Hanif Kureishi aren't particularly complimentary toward most of the groups depicted. The remnants of Pakistani culture that emerge are either preposterous or destructive. Heterosexual relations are always secondary to money. Women, mothers, daughters or mistresses, exist only to serve the needs of men.

It is Omar and Johnny, even though their relationship is clandestine and tainted by racial resentment, who have the most vital and positive relationship in the movie.

