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VOLUME 1, NUMBER 14

THE GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSPAPER

JUNE 22-28, 1988



Abby Rubensfeld, left, former legal director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and editor of the group's AIDS Legal Guide, with AmFAR (American Foundation for AIDS Research) founder Dr. Mathilde Krim, who wrote the preface to the book's new edition.. Rubensfeld, who will return to Nashville in August, is the subject of this week's Pride Profiles, page 3.

Sixteen Arrested in Wilson County Undercover Operation

By JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Sixteen men have been arrested for soliciting sex at an Interstate 40 rest stop in neighboring Wilson County, authorities report.

According to Wilson County Sheriff's Department reports, the arrests followed complaints by tourists that the rest area is well-known as a "gathering place for homosexual activity."

Wilson County Sheriff Terry Ashe attributed the recent activity at the rest stop near the Mt. Juliet exit to crackdowns in Metro parks. Last year some 300 people were arrested for soliciting sex in Metro Parks after an extensive sting operation conducted by police here.

Ashe further suggested that the recent boy prostitution sting in Nashville contributed to the growth of such activity in outlying areas of the midstate.

Following the complaints of tourists that they were being propositioned or had viewed various men involved in sex acts, the Tennessee Highway Patrol and the Wilson County Sheriff's Department began

an undercover operation which resulted in the sixteen arrests.

According to a spokesperson for the Tennessee Highway Patrol, the Mt. Juliet rest stop is known throughout the state, "and perhaps across the nation" as a "popular rest stop." Only one non-Tennessean has been charged in the undercover operation.

Much of the sexual activity took place in a wooded area behind the rest stop, Wilson County authorities reported. Clearing the area of trees and installing a fence have been discussed by state officials in an effort to deter sexual activity.

In Nashville, authorities reported last week that despite more than 300 arrests resulting from the sting operation conducted last year, illicit sex still flourishes in Metro parks.

But due to controversy surrounding recent stings conducted by Metro Police, no such operations are planned to stem the continued sexual activity in the parks.

Officials report that "five to ten arrests are made in the parks each week" of persons soliciting sex.

PRIDE!

Nashville plans a full schedule of events for Lesbian and Gay Pride Week

From STAFF REPORTS

What is being billed as "a memorable event for us all" - Pride Week '88 is under way in Nashville as Music City joins the rest of the country in celebrating lesbian and gay pride and commemorating the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York City - often viewed as the beginning of modern gay activism.

Highlighting the week-long celebration will be Saturday's Pride Parade and Festival, according to organizers of the event.

Kicking off the week's festivities was a film festival at Vanderbilt University's Sarratt Cinema featuring *My Beautiful Laundrette*, *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing* and *Parting Glances*. Attendance at the showings of the three films was termed "very good" by Penny Campbell of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA), one of the sponsoring organizations.

Tuesday night saw a very successful beer bust blast at Ralph's Rutledge Hill Tavern and Friday night will feature a Women's Alliance Coffeehouse at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Woodmont Avenue, featuring Martie Van Der Voort and Jamie Anderson.

Saturday's parade will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m. and head down 24th Avenue, South, to Capers Avenue, proceeding to Natchez Trace and on to West End Avenue. From West End, revelers will head directly to Centennial Park and the park's bandshell, site of the afternoon's entertainment and speeches.

Once at the bandshell, food and drink will be available along with merchandise and arts and crafts. Music, speeches and other entertainment is planned for the afternoon, with emcees Deborah Burks and Jeff Ellis.

Jeffrey Levi, executive director of the Washington-based National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), will deliver the keynote address.

Parade marshals - who will be identifiable by their yellow armbands - will be present all day to guide the Parade along its route,

answer questions and "deal with anything that might come up," organizers said.

The marshals have been trained to deal with crowd control and the Parade organizers from the gay and lesbian community have been in touch with both the police and Metro Parks Commission to ensure participants' enjoyment of the festivities. There will be a police escort along the parade route.

Saturday night, the Metropolitan Community Church of Nashville will present another in its Church and Community Forum series - Homosexuality and the Bible (Part Two). The forum will begin at 8:30 p.m. at the Church at 131 15th Avenue, North, immediately following the church's regular Saturday night mortgage meal - an all-you-can-eat dinner for a \$5 donation - which begins at 7:30.

Sunday, Pride celebrants will gather at Edwin Warner Park's site 9 for the annual "family potluck" picnic. The starting time is noon at the park on Highway 100 and Old Hickory Boulevard.

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2 Southern Baptists Vote to Condemn Homosexuality

By JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Amid divisiveness regarding their denomination's future direction, Southern Baptists meeting in San Antonio last week were unified long enough to call homosexuality "a perversion of divine standards."

The condemnation of homosexuality was the only rallying point of the weeklong meeting of the nation's largest Protestant denomination. Moderates worried about being able to send enough delegates - or "messengers" as the Southern Baptists prefer to be called - to next year's meeting in Las Vegas to stave the conservative tide that threatens to wash over the denomination.

The increasingly conservative face of the Southern Baptist was no more apparent than when messengers met to consider the homosexuality issue.

Although God loves homosexuals, the messengers agreed, homosexuality is nonetheless "an abomination in God's eyes." By a wide margin, they adopted a resolution deploring homosexuality as "deviant behavior that has wrought havoc in the lives of millions."

In another resolution, messengers officially expressed outrage at Cox Newspapers, Inc., for firing the publisher of the Dayton Daily News for refusing to accept advertising from gay and lesbian groups.

Labeling the publisher's termination "persecution of Christians," the resolution calls on the media "to refuse advertising that promotes homosexuality or any other lifestyle that is destructive to the family."

An amendment to the resolution was proposed to affirm the freedom of belief to all Baptists - particularly those who work in denominational agencies and seminaries. However, that amendment was soundly defeated by the denomination's conservative element which has its eyes on controlling all agencies within the denomination.

Trustees for the Nashville-based Christian Life Commission announced during the convention a search for "an educated, doctrinally sound man" to head the Baptist ethical concerns agency. Women need not apply, spokespersons noted.

"Southern Baptists aren't ready for a woman to lead this agency. We will look for a man to lead us - not for scriptural reasons. It's just more acceptable to Southern Baptists," said trustee Rev. Joe Atchison of Rogers, Ark., during a press conference.

Atchison said trustees will be looking for a man who is a "strong anti-abortionist, supporter of the death penalty and against the ordination of women."

Many messengers lamented the feud between the conservative and moderate factions of the 14.6 million member denomination, saying that the very survival of the Southern Baptists is threatened by the divisiveness.

With the election of the Rev. Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., as the new president of the Southern Baptist Convention, conservatives will be able to finally gain a clear majority on trustee boards of SBC agencies and seminaries, a move long targeted by conservative forces in the denomination.

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Director to Keynote Pride Rally

From STAFF REPORTS

Jeffrey Levi, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, will be the keynote speaker for Saturday's Pride '88 Festival at Centennial Park.

Levi has been the chief spokesperson and administrator for NGLTF since his appointment in 1986. Prior to that he served as director of governmental and political affairs in 1985 and was NGLTF's Washington representative from 1983-85.

Graduating from Oberlin College with a degree in government, Levi was awarded the master's degree in government from Cornell University in 1976. He has been an editor for the Frontier Press in Columbus, Ohio, and for Carrollton Press in Washington. From 1981-83, he was editor of the newsletter for the National Clearinghouse for Bilingual

Education.

In 1978, Levi joined the campaign staff of Congressional candidate Jim Smith as issues director. His political experience led to his involvement in the Gay Activists Alliance of Washington, the oldest nonpartisan gay political organization in the District of Columbia. From 1981-83, he served as president of the Alliance.

NGLTF is the nation's oldest gay/lesbian civil rights advocacy organization. Levi oversees lobbying, education and community organizing related to the civil rights and other concerns of the nation's gay/lesbian community - from AIDS to anti-gay/lesbian violence.

During Levi's tenure as executive director, the membership, budget and staff of NGLTF have more than doubled.

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 '88
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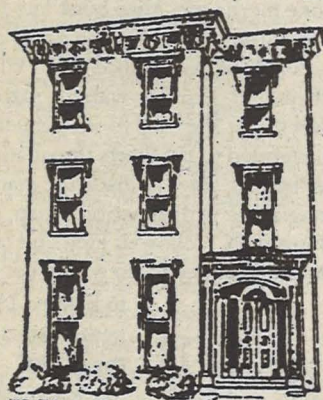
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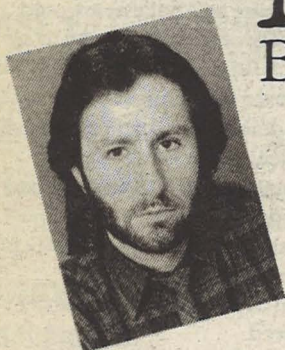
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Pride Profiles

Abby Rubinfeld Comes Home Again to Tennessee

Pride Profiles is a series of close-ups on famous lesbians and gay men with a Tennessee connection.

By **STUART BIVIN**
Editor

Abby Rubinfeld will come back home to Nashville in August, after half a decade as legal director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York City, home to a way of life that she misses and home to the friends she misses.

"I never even moved all my stuff to New York," Rubinfeld said, "Because I knew I'd be back some day. I went to Lambda with a commitment to stay a year or two, and ended up staying a lot longer - five and a half years."

Abby Rubinfeld was born in the North in Oneonta, New York, in 1953. Her family moved to Sarasota, Florida, where she was a "bookwormish" high school student.

When college time came in 1971, she left the South for Princeton University, where she broke 225 years of tradition and became the first woman class president. Rubinfeld, who majored in politics, laughingly says her real distinction as an undergraduate was in becoming "the shortest person ever to letter in basketball" at the Ivy League school (she's five feet tall).

Her election as class president is all the more remarkable because it happened in the third year of co-education at Princeton. There were 800 men in her class and only 300 women. Even *Time* magazine took note of her election.

Sometime during her first year, Rubinfeld started to come to terms with her sexuality. She struggled with it during her Princeton years, and supported the school's Gay Alliance during her sophomore and junior years, although she does not count herself as a leader in the movement at Princeton.

Later, though, at Boston University Law School, Rubinfeld founded the B.U. Gay and Lesbian Alliance (BUGALA), which she affectionately pronounces "boo-gah-la."

"I wasn't really that engaged in law school activities," she allows, "Although I did enjoy moot court and clinic."

Rubinfeld avoided the physical doldrums so many students meet in graduate school by staying active on the rugby field.

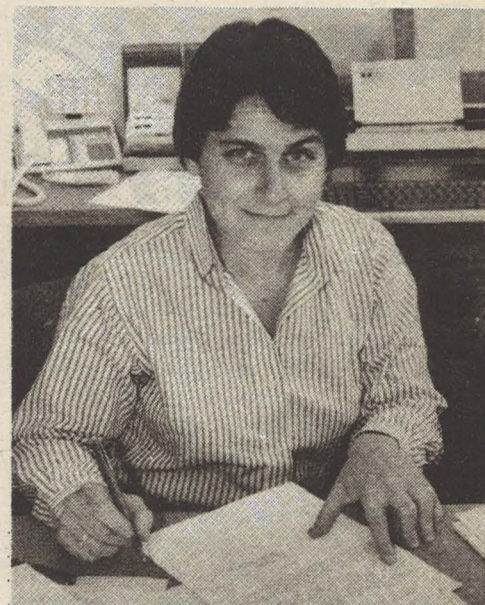
She remembers one occasion when she wore two black eyes and a broken nose after a particularly enthusiastic match.

After her second year, when law students traditionally work as law clerks for firms that they would like to get permanent positions with after graduation, Rubinfeld took a job with Legal Services of Middle Tennessee during the summer of 1978.

She fell in love with Nashville.

"My first lover went to school here, and that was the initial attraction. But I found that I liked the pace here. I knew that I liked living in the South, and that I wanted to come back to practice law after graduation. After my clerkship, I got a job with Cheatham and Palermo [the Nashville law firm where she will return to practice this summer]. I liked the lesbian and gay community here, and I made a lot of good friends in the legal community."

"I think we ought to be able to live in the South. The idea that it's more difficult here just isn't necessarily right. There's a lot more



Abby Rubinfeld

bigotry in the North," Rubinfeld said, although she hastens to add that "All areas have a poor record" as far as homophobia and racism are concerned.

She insists that she encountered no real problems as an openly lesbian attorney in Tennessee. "My firm was very supportive, and the lawyers and judges I came in contact with respected me for the work I did. I never felt I had to hide my sexuality."

Rubinfeld's tenure as legal director at Lambda, the world's largest and the nation's first gay-and-lesbian legal rights organization, was marked by staggering growth. The organization had only one attorney on staff - Rubinfeld - when she began. Today there are five staff attorneys and a nationwide network of cooperating attorneys. The group has a \$1 million-plus budget, and has helped set legal precedent in jurisdictions all over the United States.

Rubinfeld, especially, has done pioneering work in AIDS law.

"In 1983, we realized that the need for a compassionate, responsible legal response to the AIDS epidemic was there, and we began to formulate a plan to deal with the legal crises that we thought would follow the medical crisis."

Under Rubinfeld, Lambda put together the first AIDS legal publication, the *AIDS Legal Guide*. The book has been revised and is now in its second edition.

Lambda and Rubinfeld have also won major, groundbreaking cases establishing the rights of AIDS sufferers. Rubinfeld is particularly pleased with the outcome of *Sonnabend*, a case in which a co-op was prevented by the court from evicting a physician because many of his patients were being treated for AIDS and AIDS-related illnesses. The case was the first time a state court ruled AIDS to be a protected disability.

In spite of all her achievements as a high-profile, high-powered lawyer, Rubinfeld says that she's not all that comfortable with fame. "I'm a low-key person, so I've never been all that at-ease in the limelight."

Her family seems to take the limelight all in stride, she says. "Although they've all been supportive and are proud of me, it's not really a big deal. To tell the truth, I think my mother is much more excited about being Pee Wee Herman's mom."

That Strange Girl:

Second in a three-part series

By **SHERRE DRYDEN**
Entertainment Editor

Five months after Lillie Johnson was released from jail and six months after Alice Mitchell murdered Freda Ward, Alice faced the jury that would determine her sanity.

If found insane, she would be sent to an "asylum" until cured. If found sane, she would probably hang.

On July 18, 1892, Alice's case came before Judge Julius J. DuBose. DuBose was the same judge who had allowed bail for Lillie, not because he felt she was innocent, but because of her delicate health.

The only witness called that first day was George Mitchell, Alice's father. Mitchell, according to the Knoxville *Times*, "gave a history of his daughter's peculiarities." He also testified that Alice's mother, whose first name never appeared in newspaper accounts, had been insane "years ago."

At least five prominent Tennessee physicians, most from Memphis, testified as "expert witnesses." Dr. F.L. Sim was the editor of the *Memphis Medical Monthly*. Dr. Benjamin Franklin Turner was one of the few Tennessee doctors at the time to have had psychiatric training. Also giving evidence were Dr. E.P. Sale from Memphis, Dr. Michael Campbell of Knoxville and Dr. J.H. Callender.

Many of the doctors made an association between Alice's love for Freda, "unnatural love" in general and violent acts. Callender

stated that Alice's sole motive for killing Freda appeared to be "that she loved her and could not bear...losing her, or having any other person show her affection."

Yet doctors also testified that Alice and Freda had not actually indulged in "perverted acts." Although Sim stated that Alice and Freda "became lovers in the sense of that relation between persons of different sexes," he also considered the relationship to be one of "purely platonic love." Those statements sound contradictory today, but in 1892 sexual attraction was not believed to exist outside marriage.

Callender testified that Alice was unaware of "the preposterous character of the marriage she looked for" and suggested she had a child's lack of knowledge of the "purpose of the organs of generation in the sexes." This much was probably true. Given the level of sexual knowledge, even in

married women of the period, Alice is likely to have had no idea of what marriage was presumed to mean in terms of a sexual relationship.

Testimony also made much of Alice's behavior in childhood and adolescence. At five she like to play on a swing and was an expert climber. Later she liked marbles and played baseball and football. Her brother Frank practiced target shooting with her and she was fond of horses and rode well. A "regular tomboy," Alice disliked sewing and needlework.

As a young woman "she had no beaux and took no pleasure in the society of young men. She was sometimes rude, and always indifferent to young men. She was regarded as mentally wrong by young men toward whom she thus acted," Sim said.

On July 27, the doctors concluded their

testimony and Alice took the stand. The *Nashville Banner* called it "the most remarkable scene ever witnessed in a courtroom."

According to newspaper accounts, the questioning was rigid and Alice was composed and unemotional during most of the proceedings. She remained calm, "without a trace of remorse or show of emotion," except when speaking of her love for Freda. She loved Freda "better than anyone on earth, and still thought and dreamed of her."

Alice also admitted she had tried to kill Freda but was unable to carry out her plan. On one occasion the razor stuck in her pocket. Another time the location was too public.

She testified that on January 25, she had followed Freda to the Customs House, explaining that Freda had winked at her with her right eye, signifying "I love you."

When she described telling Fred, just before she killed her, that she wanted to see her one more time, Alice burst into tears.

"I took the razor out while going down the hill toward the boat," Alice said. "When I reached Fred, I cut her with the razor. As I cut her throat she tried to say something."

"I intended to cut Fred's throat and then mine, but her sister Jo made me mad by striking at me with an umbrella, so, after slashing at Jo, I followed Fred and cut her again. All I wanted to do was to cut her so as

to kill her. I loved her better than anyone in the world."

When asked why she murdered Freda, Alice answered, "Because I knew I could not have her,"

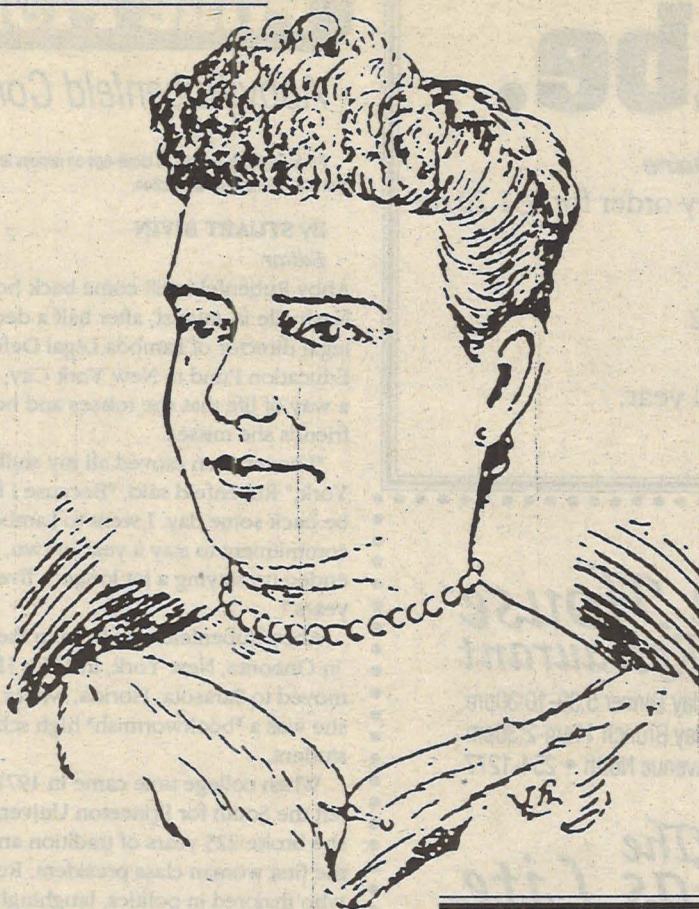
dissolving into tears again.

On July 30, the jury left the courtroom at 9:30 a.m. At 9:50 they returned with the verdict: "We, the jury, find the defendant, Alice Mitchell, insane and believe it would endanger the safety of the community to set her at liberty."

When Alice heard the verdict, "a faint smile spread over the defendant's features, as if she had been confident of the jury's verdict throughout the entire trial. She was taken to jail, gaily chatting as she went..."

The jury's verdict meant they found Alice unfit to stand trial. The question of her mental condition at the time of the murder was not considered.

Alice was sent to Western State Mental Hospital in Bolivar. If she was released as sane at any time, she would be tried for murder.



The Alice Mitchell MURDER CASE

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Social-Climbing Locals Continue Summer Social-Climbing Season

By JAAN STURGIS

Staff Writer

Social climbing managing (what or who is he managing?) editor of *Dare*, Jeff Ellis, was one of the judges at last week's *Miss Music City* contest at the Cabaret. Other judges included Beverly Garrison of the *Tennessean*; Sam Adams, long-time gay rights activist; Terry Dunn; and Renee Blaylock. The winner of this year's competition was Dejouré Shantou and she was crowned to a roaring round of applause and cat calls. First runner-up was Diana Hutton and Paula Sinclair was named second runner-up.

Penny Campbell and I chatted this past week, and did you know she's getting three hours graduate credit for working with T-GALA this summer in conjunction with her divinity school "learnings" at Vandy? Not only will the executive committee of T-GALA evaluate her, but so will her theological supervisor. Her keen interest in gay and lesbian issues has prompted her internship with this prominent local organization. Her help with Pride Week '88 in numerous capacities has helped the Saturday "Celebration" day (June 25) at Centennial Park be a day that NO ONE will want to miss. In addition, later in the summer she will be designing workshops on homophobia. The Unitarians, Methodists, and UCCers have all indicated an interest in her project, and she's hoping that Glendale Baptist Church - which

has a large gay/lesbian contingent - will welcome her workshop. Making innumerable telephone calls to city officials, she has secured endorsements for Pride Week from Councilmen Harold Boguskey, Will Ackerman and Guy Bates.

My eyes grew large with wonderment when Terry Ralston told me of his recent trip to Boston and Portland. In fact, unbeknownst to Terry, Boston celebrates Gay Pride Week weeks before the rest of the country, and he marched in their Parade. All he'll tell us about Portland was that there were lots of lumberjacks that caught his eye (hmmm!).

For those of you with a fancy toward the fundamental (religiously), MCC Antioch, a parish extension of MCC Nashville, will tickle your innards. The group is presently meeting at the Pine Hollow Apartments every Sunday morning at 11 a.m. and offers a fundamental approach to the scriptures. For more info, call 834-4491 or 360-7002.

We knew it would happen someday and our loss is your gain, Dayton and Mobile. Rita Ross of Warehouse 28 fame has left Music City (although it's rumored she's keeping an apartment here) for Southern (Mobile) and Northern (Dayton) climes. She's reportedly working at the Octagon in Mobile.

The art auction to benefit MCC Nashville at the Unitarian Church last Saturday was truly

an interesting affair. Apparently, no one told the attendees that they were at a prominent social function. What would Catherine Darnell's Buffy have done there when people even appeared in shorts! Anyway, the art was not too shabby and the auctioneer - a self-proclaimed gay - was as gracious as they come, even though the bidding was lackluster at best and bargains abounded.

Two Nashville restaurants Thursday will present a benefit for the Vanderbilt Aids Project - "Dinner, Dessert and Jazz Under the Nashville Skyline."

Dinner will be served from 6-9 p.m. at Hakka, First Avenue South and Peabody, featuring a Chinese buffet and hot or iced tea. From 8:30-11:30 p.m., the Easy Jazz Quartet will play at Windows on the Cumberland, 112 Second Avenue, North, where dessert and coffee will be served.

Alcohol will be available at each location, but is not included in the ticket price of \$20 per person, \$30 per couple. For music alone, there will be a \$5 cover charge at Windows on the Cumberland.

Proceeds will benefit the community education and counseling programs of the Vanderbilt AIDS Project.

Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster locations and at the door. Space is limited, organizers say, and advance tickets are advised.

Julie Berbiglia of TKALS sends word that

Nashville Men Sing for Women's Choice has been postponed until next month. Look for details on time, place and tickets in the calendar later.

Ann Taylor, charged with booth development at the Saturday Gay Pride Festival, has truly outdone herself. She told me that the ACLU, Nashville Voters' Coalition, National Feasibility Campaign, T-GALA, Dare and Chiropactor Paul Solodar, among others, will have booths to celebrate Pride Week! In addition, Lodestar Books - the Birmingham-based gay and lesbian bookstore - will attend and representatives from Short Mountain and a most-welcome lemonade booth complete another sector of booths. In the crafts division, Maria Reid will display her batik and tie-dyed creations and Wendie Farrel will display jewelry. Mother and son combination Murray Brown (jewelry) and Taylor Root (fantastic painted T-shirts) will display their specialties. To top off the day's events, Jeffrey Levi from NGLTF will be the keynote speaker for the event. Following his moving speech will be entertainment by Judy Aaron and Gerrit Wilson. Deborah Burks and Jeff Ellis (both social climbers at heart) will emcee the event.

And...what's been happening in your life that's worthy to print? Give me a call and let me know - 226-4034 (evenings).

That's *Sociables* for this week, dearhearts. See you next time!

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After the March



By **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

After a heady experience during the historic March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights last October, Nashville gay and lesbian activism appeared to "come out of the closet" in the months that followed.

But how far have we come? And how far must we go?

Perhaps the most tangible result of October's heady activism was the resurgence

of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Coalition which had existed in various forms for several years. Now known as the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA), the organization has given Nashville men and women an opportunity to direct their energies toward achieving equality here, in what is often referred to as the buckle of America's bible belt.

"I think the March brought a core group together to work for gay and lesbian rights,"

said Penny Campbell, a student Vanderbilt University's Divinity School who is serving a summer internship with T-GALA.

"For me, the March was a life changing experience. I went as someone who had developed politically, but I wasn't politically active," said Deborah Burks. "I became active, however, and with the core group from the March committee, became even more so."

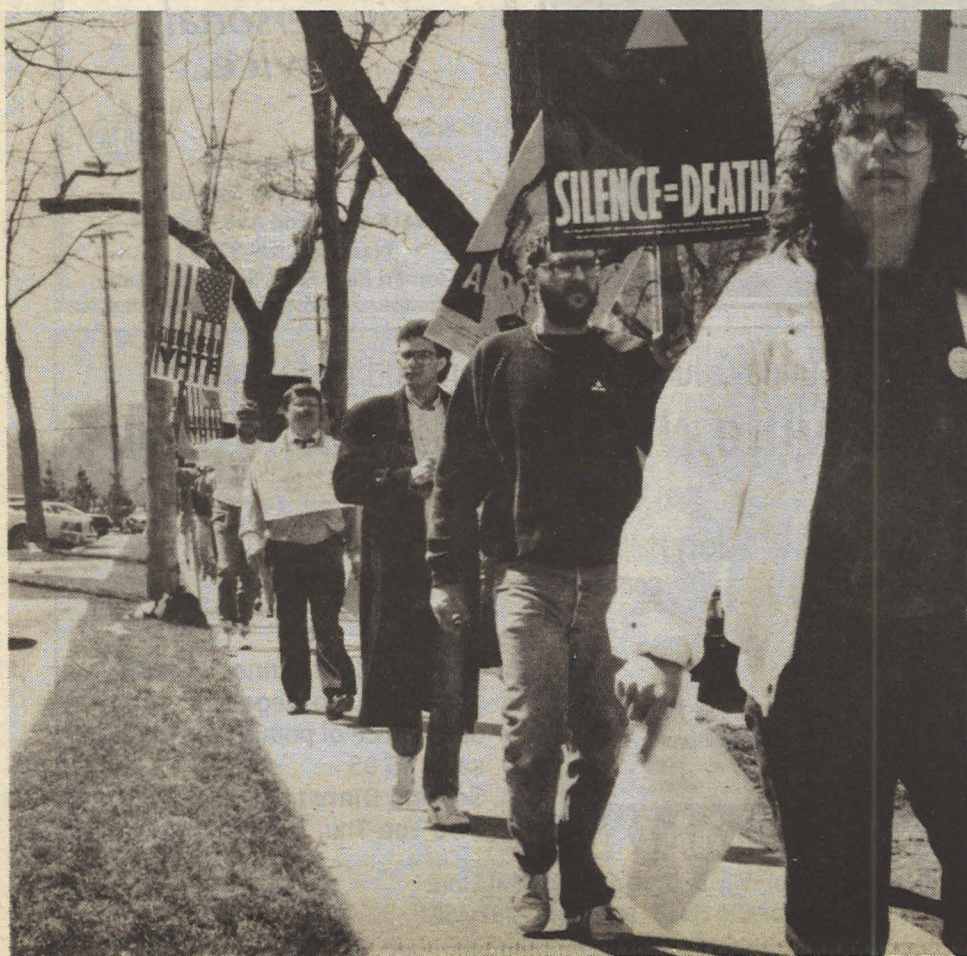
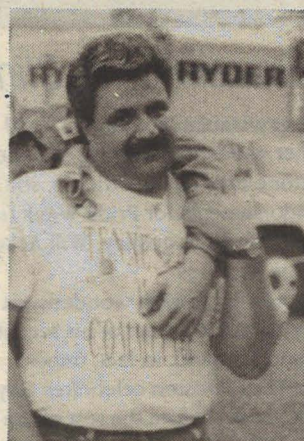
According to Campbell, this "core group" of organizers was largely responsible for breathing life into T-GALA, which is now viewed by political experts in the region as a strong and viable constituency.

It was the political aspirations of the organization which led to the establishment of Advance, the political action committee arm of T-GALA, according to its director, Burks. She sees the establishment of a PAC as essential in the struggle for gay and lesbian rights in Nashville and the middle Tennessee area.

"The political action committee is a tool for advancing the goals of T-GALA through the political process," Burks said. "We have several goals before us, including securing an anti-discrimination ordinance in metropolitan Nashville to protect gay men and lesbians. The PAC could hasten attainment of that goal by influencing the election of sympathetic public officials."

But perhaps more importantly, Advance can aid in the quest for political office by lesbians and gay men. Local activists "got their feet wet" earlier this year when they were candidates for delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Several activists were elected at local caucuses, only to lose at the district level, pointing to a much-needed grassroots level organization.

"We live in what I believe is a conscience-centered city," Campbell said. "I think we can teach our city to become more progressive in regards to gay and lesbian civil



rights. But to do this we must develop a closer relationship with our elected officials."

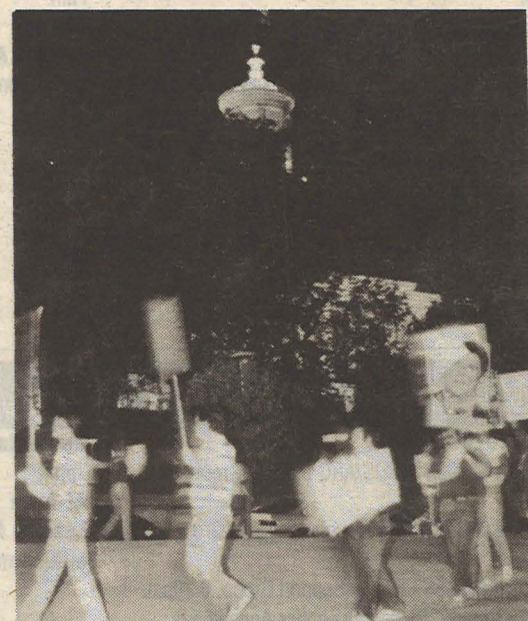
"I am very encouraged by the advances we've made thus far," said long-time activist Sam Adams. "There are some energetic, powerful people in this town who are working for lesbian and gay civil rights."

In addition to political goals, T-GALA also hopes to establish a hotline and to work toward eliminating violence and acts of discrimination directed toward lesbians and gay men. A recent study conducted by members of the group shows that incidents of that nature appear to be on the upswing, not only here but across the country as well.

T-GALA has also been instrumental in bringing to Nashville a number of nationally-known gay and lesbian speakers and performers including Karen Thompson who spoke of her battle to care for her lover Sharon Kowalski in the wake of a devastating automobile crash which has left Kowalski a virtual prisoner. The uproariously funny, and



Nashville's Coming Out Party



very well received *Dos Lesbos*, featuring Lea DeLaria and Kelley Edwards played twice before responsive Nashville audiences. The organization has also sponsored voter registration throughout the past months and struggled alongside persons with AIDS to ensure their civil rights protection.

It is AIDS, perhaps, that has galvanized the Nashville lesbian and gay community as we struggle to come to terms with this mysterious plague that runs rampant. The Nashville chapter of AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP) has been one of the most visible organizations in the city, sponsoring a series of demonstrations and candlelight vigils to help focus attention on the state's apparent disregard of AIDS issues.

Establishment of Vanderbilt Lambda Association (VLA) was also a result of the March on Washington. The organization offers members of the Vanderbilt University community an opportunity to work toward lesbian and gay rights on campus. Already

VLA has been active in their attempts to persuade administrators to include sexual orientation in its policy statements.

Yet despite all the developments and advancements, has Nashville reached an impasse?

"Sometimes I think we've busted the closet door down. But at other times, I think we've added a deadbolt to the closet door," Adams said.

Campbell agreed: "I think the closet door has burst open and several people have jumped out. But the ones left inside the closet have locked the door."

So what do we do now?

Campbell believes education is the key - not just of heterosexuals, but of homosexuals as well.

"We have to educate those left in the closet and those out of the closet to let them know why we're doing what we're doing," she said.

"We've got a long way to go and we must keep knocking on closet doors," Adams said. "I was here in the early '80s when there was nothing, so I know what things were like then. But I also can see how things can be if we work toward our goals."

Campbell suggested that the key to success is "believing in ourselves, trusting in ourselves and being confident in ourselves."

"When I was in Washington last October," Burks remembers, "I saw that change was possible and it increased my desire to work to bring about change at home - here in Nashville."

"After several months of organizing, now we're operating efficiently. We have a group of people who work well together, who have formed strong working relationships. We've accomplished an incredible amount since our return from the March."

But, Campbell said, in order to achieve

the goals set forth by local leaders of the lesbian and gay rights movement, "we need to be more visible as a community and we have to realize that we do have a right to these fundamental civil rights for which we are fighting."

And, for now, local activists are gearing up for still another heady experience - Saturday's Pride Parade and Festival, an opportunity for Nashville to "come out of the closet."



Dates

June

Your nonprofit 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.

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.
Al-Anon Meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.
Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC. 8pm.

22 Wednesday

Pride Week *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*, movie. Vanderbilt Sarratt Cinema. 8pm.
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

Vanderbilt Univ / US Office of Civil Rights *Eliminating Sexual Harassment on Campus* Sarratt Cinema. Info phone 322-4705. 8:30am-5pm. \$20.
Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5pm.
Vanderbilt AIDS Project *Dinner, Dessert and Jazz Under the Nashville Skyline* benefit. Chinese buffet dinner, Hakka Restaurant. 6-9pm. Easy Jazz Quartet, dessert and coffee, Windows on the Cumberland. 8:30-11:30pm. \$20, \$30 per couple, \$5 for music only.
Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 8pm.
Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Info phone 385-4776 or 352-5823. 8pm.

29 Wednesday

Nashville Voters' Coalition Meeting and volunteer training. Unitarian Church. Info phone 244-4353. 7:30pm.
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 352-5823. 8pm.

4 Monday

INDEPENDENCE DAY

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.

5 Tuesday

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

6 Wednesday

Support Group for Lesbians and Gay Men Meeting. 8pm. Info phone 833-4598.

7 Thursday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5pm.
Nashville Voters' Coalition Wine and cheese reception and fundraiser to send NVC delegates Kate Monaghan and Paul Slentz to the Democratic National Convention, Woodmont Terrace Apts Clubhouse, 910 Woodmont Blvd. Info phone 292-9623. 6-8pm. Donation requested.
Alcoholics Anonymous Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 8pm.
Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Info phone 385-4776 or 352-5823. 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 Chute
 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

24 Friday

Vanderbilt Univ / US Office of Civil Rights
Eliminating Sexual Harassment on Campus Sarratt
Cinema. Info phone 322-4705. 9am-12:30pm. \$20.
Sexaholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC.
5pm.

Nashville Womens' Alliance Jamie Anderson and
Martie van der Voort, coffeehouse. Unitarian Universal-
ist 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.

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.

Nashville CARES *Waay Off Broadway*, benefit show.
Warehouse 28. 10pm and midnight.

**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

8 Friday

Sexaholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC.
5pm.

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

9 Saturday

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4pm.

Metropolitan Community Church Mortgage
Meal, all you can eat. 7:30pm. \$5.

10 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.

Feminist Book Circle Discussion of Radclyffe
Hall's *The Well of Loneliness*, Dare Library, 164 8th
Ave North, Suite 202. Info phone 298-9931 or 383-
4986. 5-7pm.

Listings

Organizations

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 37202

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

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

Views

Clarifying Our Policy

Our purposes, as we see them, are several. First, and most importantly, *Dare* is a tool for educating the lesbian and gay community, both politically and socially. For those who, for whatever reasons, are not politically active, we are a source of information about the struggle for gay and lesbian rights. Education is also keeping people informed about books and movies with lesbian and gay themes or creators, listing resource agencies and organizations, and presenting issues not related directly to the movement but which are important to lesbians and gay men.

One of the issues most important to us is the relationship between lesbians and gay men, women and men. Not everyone would agree that it is a worthwhile endeavor to educate men about women or women about men. Some people view the opposite sex as irredeemable and think the only thing to do is become separatist.

Most days, we disagree. We have a commitment to feminism and we think the best direction for the lesbian and gay rights movement is to secure a better life for all of us. We want to do as much as we can - and more than we have done - for example, to try educating men about women's issues such as women-only space and parallel language. Members of one gender may not perfectly understand issues that are important to the other gender but perhaps we can at least learn to respect the importance of each other's concerns.

And we may educate ourselves in the process. As much as it may dismay us to think it, not all gay men and lesbians consider themselves feminists. They need to understand not only how they're oppressed by heterosexual society, but also about the greater oppression of sexism.

Secondly, we're here to document the lives and accomplishments of lesbians and gay men. One way to control a group is to make it invisible by suppressing any evidence of the productivity of its members. Among the first steps taken in the civil rights

and women's movements was to recover the history of blacks and women, to document their contemporary and past achievements. For gay men and lesbians to become validated and legitimized in our own eyes and the eyes of the world there must be a record of our existence.

One way to achieve this goal is to include historical articles, which have proven quite popular. Another is through people. Real human beings with real lives. Women and men, who, though often fearful, have had the courage to work for lesbian and gay rights. Whether we are activists ourselves or young people just discovering our sexuality, these people are our role models. We have them to show us the way, to make us brave when we're feeling afraid.

When you agree to chair a committee or sell tickets or carry a banner, you probably don't think of yourself as a role model. But every time a seventeen year old from Mt. Juliet, just coming out, sees someone real with a job and friends and a good life she knows she's not alone. And every time we hide our faces - even for absolutely good reasons like having to eat or protecting our families - what we're really doing is allowing that white male heterosexual society to subvert the movement.

For many of us, this possibility is a totally new one, born in Nashville since October 11, 1987. When we went to Washington, we made jokes about Mom and Dad seeing us on the evening news, but none of us worried much. Washington was a long way from Nashville and lesbian and gay rights was not such big news in Nashville.

It's big news now and it's big news because our community made it so. Articles and letters appear almost daily in the *Nashville Banner* and the *Tennessean* and for the first time, we have a freely distributed lesbian and gay newspaper. There will be mainstream media coverage of the Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade and Rally and anti-gay protestors are likely. It's exciting, but it's scary, too.

We are also here to entertain. We like the idea of entertainment in and of itself, of course. Everyone should have fun. But we also have a subversive motive. If we entertain you, you're likely to continue reading *Dare*, and we can't be an educational tool without readers.

When we first started writing for *Dare*, we didn't give things like purposes and processes enough thought. But because we think *Dare* is important and because we believe in it, we've had to start looking at some issues larger than what articles we're writing for next week.

We have had to think and re-think some sticky issues. Should people be allowed to use pseudonyms? Can men cover women's issues? How can we be objective about issues we're personally involved in? When we go to an event, are we individuals or are we *Dare* reporters?

These are hard questions and we're still trying to develop the answers. We know we have to struggle to remain objective. If we don't, you won't be able to trust us, will never know if we are telling the truth or allowing our own feelings to color what we say. We have to honor your trust by not betraying our confidences, by not becoming reporters when you thought we were friends, by standing behind our own convictions even when they seem unpopular.

We're finding it hard to move from being individuals, with individual opinions and positions, to being part of a group. *Dare* is a group effort, and there are times when group decisions will not be the ones we would make as individuals. But even when we don't wholeheartedly agree with the group, we have to decide whether it's important enough to stick with. We think *Dare* is.

Community support is essential for our survival and success. If we permit philosophical or political or personal differences to destroy us, we hurt only ourselves. *Dare*, as an educator and documentor and entertainer, is essential to the continued growth of the lesbian and gay community in Nashville. *Dare* is the community.

Dare

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

June 22-28, 1988
Volume 1, Number 14

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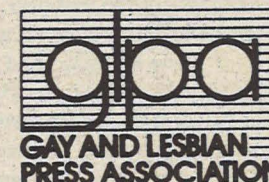
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Pride '88
Y'all Come Out Now, Y'hear!

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.

Dear **Dare**:

Your recent editorial, "Naming Names is Our Job," was somewhat unclear to me, so I am writing for clarification. You stated that participating in a public event makes one susceptible to public knowledge of that person's participation in that event. Okay, but what exactly constitutes a public event? What is "being in the public eye"? Also, you wrote that pseudonyms could be used to protect an individual's safety or privacy. Given that we live in a homophobic culture where gay-bashing is on the increase, it is argued by some that printing any names is risking one's safety. So please explain under what circumstance you would use a pseudonym.

It saddens me that "naming names" is such a central issue in lesbian/gay politics. How serious can we be about our cause if we are too afraid to say who we are? Maybe that's what Gay Pride is all about.

Thank you for a wonderful newspaper that is providing an invaluable service to our community.

Penny Campbell
Nashville

Dear **Dare**:

You have been sending us your paper for a couple months now. It's a very fine paper; I wish we had something like it in New York. You could double the amount you send to us, if you like. They get snapped right up.

With gay pride,

Craig Rodwell
Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop
New York City

Dear **Dare**:

Does anyone out there remember back to the March on Washington, when a couple of hundred Tennesseans were challenging other states by chanting, "We've got spirit, yes we do. We've got spirit, how 'bout you?" I remember it. I also remember the incredible emotional high that came from feeling positive about who we were and what we were doing. We were proud to be lesbians and gays from Tennessee.

The emotional buzz that I had in D.C. has been brought back by Gay and Lesbian PRide Week. This Saturday, when our Pride Parade takes to the streets and parks of Nashville, the echoes of "We've got pride, yes we do" will be ringing in many homophobic ears.

I wouldn't trade hearing that for two dates with Meryl Streep.

Be proud or be straight.

Diane Easter
Nashville

Dear **Dare**:

Gay and lesbians in straight society face a lot of major decisions. One of the most difficult questions is "How 'out' can I be?" The answer is ever-changing, depending on whether you're at your parents' house or your office, on a gay cruise or in the local supermarket.

As well all know, "out" is relative. When someone decides for us how out we'll be, it can make us angry or afraid, or even relieved. Many times our reaction to being dragged out of the closet is based more on how we expect people to react than on how they probably will.

When a person's name appears in print in conjunction with a gay-related event, their first reaction is often fear - "OMIGOD, what

if my boss sees this (or my mother or my priest)?! I'll be fired (or disowned or excommunicated)! How could the newspaper (newsletter, etc.) ruin my life like this? How can they be so insensitive?

Chances are, that unless your boss, mother or priest are gay, your exposure is less than it seems at first.

The fact is that the people who help our community communicate are often in a no-win situation. They want to report on all the exciting events that are happening in Nashville and across the country. They try to make their articles informative but not invasive.

In their efforts to keep the community active and informed, they sometimes get a little overzealous. Details get printed - not through prurience or malice, but through an honest attempt to provide complete, accurate information in a hurry.

We should perhaps be a little lenient towards the folks who are trying to provide us with news we often can't get any other way. You've got to admit that it's better to have real people doing real things than this:

"Ronnie (not his real name) had a few people (who we're not saying are gay) over somewhere one day last month to celebrate something, but we can't tell you anything about it because, well, you know why."

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of Terry Kevlin.

Robyn Kevlin
Nashville

Dear **Dare**:

The Pride '88 Parade and Rally will be a memorable event for all of us. We hope you'll keep a few things in mind as we celebrate our unity and strength:

The parade will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m. and head down 24th Avenue to Capers where we will turn left and proceed to Natchez Trace. Once there we will move to West End and proceed directly to Centennial Park and the park bandshell.

Marshals with yellow armbands will be present all day to guide the Parade along its route, answer questions you may have and deal with anything that might come up. Our marshals are trained to deal with crowd control and the Parade organizers from the gay community have been in touch with both the police and the Parks Office to insure that the parade and rally will be enjoyable and memorable for us all. Please heed the suggestions of the marshals about when to cross streets, what traffic hazards to avoid and how to have enjoyable, safe fun on our way to the rally.

There will be a police escort during the parade until we get to Centennial Park, at which time the Police will leave. Our own marshals will be at the rally site to serve all day as a protective presence for all participants.

Designated spokespersons will be available for press interviews before, during and after the parade.

Once at the bandshell, there will be food and drink available, as well as vendors selling Pride '88 T-shirts, mugs, buttons and other products. We hope you will stay for the entire rally to hear the music, speeches and other entertainment that will make Pride '88 a success.

Please remember that the marshals are wearing yellow armbands and are here to answer questions and make sure everything goes smoothly. So come on out!

Pride '88 Committee
Nashville

Pages

There She Is, Miss Venezuela

Miss Venezuela. Barbara Wilson. [Boston: Seal Press, 1988]. \$8.95

By **SHERRE DRYDEN**
Entertainment Editor

The cover notes for *Miss Venezuela* suggest wacky stories about eccentric characters. The first in the collection, "The Investment," reinforces that impression a bit:

"Una was her name. Una Eunice Huckle. She was the only thin person in a family of fat slob and she had a real monkey besides, though Susie never did get to see it."

Fortunately, although some are much stronger than others, Barbara Wilson's stories have more substance than wackiness.

"The Investment," is, on its own, one of the slightest of the collection, most previously published in *Thin Ice* and *Walking on the Moon*. But this story of the unsavory Huckle family and their effect on the young protagonist Susie sets the tone for what

follows.

All but one of the stories ("Looking for the Golden Gate") center on female characters, describing episodes of their interactions with others. These episodes are not always cataclysmic in a traditional way, but they are often turning points in the characters' lives.

In fact, by opposing events like the death of Laurel's husband in "Disasters" with a chance meeting between 12 year-old Phonda and a beauty queen in "Miss Venezuela" Wilson demonstrates that small moments can be as transforming as major upheavals.

No wild emotions accompany the transformation - the small moments or the upheavals. Rather, they result in feelings of quiet contentment and satisfaction. The characters grow stronger somehow, maybe in ways they don't even notice, and that strength is a theme that runs through all of the stories in *Miss Venezuela*.

One of the most charming instances of this

new strength comes in "Il Circo Delle Donne." Judith Ellery, "forty-one years old, a housewife and mother of two," joins an all-woman circus. She is in Italy on her second honeymoon when she quietly leaves one night, taking only her passport.

Perhaps the circus is a metaphor. I prefer to take the story literally and imagine Judith, Marianne, the lion-tamer; Katrina "the ringmaster, wearing a tux the color of a mermaid's glittering green tail;" Elsa and Grazia and the others happily travelling across Europe, collecting other women as they go.

Strangely, one of the most promising stories, "Walking on the Moon," doesn't quite work. It is the longest in the collection, a description of 18 year-old Elizabeth's stay at an Evangelical Girl's Home in Dusseldorf and her return 12 years later to come to terms with what happened there.

Structurally the story is awkward. Wilson

alternates episodes from the present with Elizabeth's remembrances. I understand Wilson's desire to demonstrate the link between past and present, but her deliberateness is distracting.

Additionally, there are details of too many elements for so short a space: Elizabeth, her family, Kathe, Kathe's family, the other residents of the madchenheim, and all of their mutual interactions. "Walking on the Moon" lacks the simplicity and naturalness of other stories.

The series of stories about Kate and her brother Kevin are completely natural and quite satisfying. The relationships between the two and others in their lives (father, mother, lovers, strangers) seem so right that it's easy to imagine having met them.

Stories like those about Kate and Kevin, about seemingly inconsequential moments that have life-long impact, are what Wilson is best at.

