

FROM THE HEART OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH Dare

FREE

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THE LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSPAPER

JULY 29-AUGUST 4, 1988

Nashville Plans Kowalski Party

Local Committee Joins 17 Other Cities in National Celebration

By DEBORAH BURKS
Staff Writer

On Sunday, August 7th, demonstrators will gather in 17 cities nationwide, including Nashville, to celebrate Sharon Kowalski's 32nd birthday and to demand her release from the Minnesota nursing home where she has been forced by her father to reside since 1985.

Five years ago, Sharon Kowalski suffered a serious brain stem injury when her car was struck by a drunk driver.

Sharon's life partner Karen Thompson, a physical education professor at St. Cloud State University, says that she used her knowledge of physical therapy in the months after the accident to begin the slow process of rehabilitation.

In time, according to Thompson, Sharon could eat, drink, comb her hair, and communicate via an electric typewriter.

After months of constantly being at the hospital with Sharon yet hiding their relationship, Thompson says that she told Sharon's parents about her life with their daughter. Kowalski's father Donald responded with hostility and denied that his daughter is a lesbian.

In an effort to protect what she saw as Sharon Kowalski's right to recovery and to ensure their rights as a couple, Thompson entered into a legal struggle with the her lover's parents for guardianship of Kowalski.

However, in July of 1985, Donald Kowalski was appointed guardian by the court. Since then, he has refused to allow Thompson to visit, participate in rehabilitative efforts or communicate with his daughter in any way.

As a consequence, Thompson and her supporters believe, Sharon Kowalski's condition has deteriorated. She was moved to a nursing home hours away from her lover where she has received minimal rehabilitation.

In addition, her friends are not allowed to visit and her typewriter has been removed. Her father insists she functions as a six-year-old.

Karen Thompson's struggle to have Sharon's rights restored continues. In the last three years, Thompson has taken her story around the country, including an

appearance at Vanderbilt's Women's Week this past spring, and has gained national support for her case.

"This case has become a symbol for lesbians and other oppressed people in this country," explains Penny Campbell, an organizer of Free Sharon Kowalski Day events in Nashville. "It's made us work hard in the efforts to have Sharon's rights restored because we all have a stake in the outcome. This case will be a great victory for all of us."

The most recent development in the Thompson case occurred this past February, when a Minnesota court ordered that Sharon be tested for competency - a stipulation of guardianship which Donald Kowalski has ignored. Activists across the country believe this is the first step to assuring quality care for Sharon.

According to Campbell, the goals of National Free Sharon Kowalski Day are:

- to restore Sharon's rights
- to gain recognition for lesbian and gay relationships
- to expose guardianship abuse of people with disabilities
- to educate lesbians, gay men and others about the power of attorney as a tool for protecting their relationships.

The August 7th celebration planned by the Nashville Kowalski Committee and sponsored by T-GALA and the Pride Week Committee will include a barbecue at 1401 Cedar Lane from 6-8 PM.

The event will continue at Legislative Plaza in downtown Nashville where participants will celebrate the lives of Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson with a candlelight vigil, speakers and song. Performers will include Marianne Osiel, Lisa Roberson, and Kat Graham.

Local organizers encourage everyone to come and hear the story of Thompson and Kowalski and to share in their fight for human rights.

"We want to increase Nashville's awareness of this case," says Campbell. "But we also want people to realize that Sharon's is not an isolated case. Right here in Nashville, there are people living in nursing homes whose rights are being violated. This is a broader issue than just lesbian and gay rights."

THE DEMONIC FORCE WORKING ON DAVID IS MOLDING HIM INTO A FEMININE ROLE... IN THIS CASE, IT IS USING DAVID'S FATHER TO HELP PLANT THOSE THOUGHTS IN DAVID'S MIND.



NOTE: NOT ALL HOMOSEXUALS HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED TO BE FEMININE. MANY ARE EXTREMELY MASCULINE. SATAN WILL USE A MULTITUDE OF TECHNIQUES TO FILL THE RANKS OF HOMOSEXUALS.

This cartoon appears in a fundamentalist tract that explains homosexuality to teens as "sin." Jeff Ellis examines what it's like to be a lesbian or gay teen in *Coming of Age*, page 4.

Ex-Cop Sues Metro & DeBusk for Malicious Sex Prosecution

By JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Retired Metro Nashville police detective Ray McClard, 60, last week vowed to proceed with a malicious prosecution suit he filed last September against Metro park ranger Jeff DeBusk, who arrested McClard in June, 1986, on charges of soliciting prostitution.

McClard's renewed fervor followed an announcement by Assistant District Attorney John Zimmerman that 1987 charges leveled against McClard had been dropped.

McClard had been charged last September with having sex with a 16-year-old boy who had been boarding his horse at McClard's East Nashville stable.

"We believe, after a lengthy investigation, that the boy is telling the truth," Zimmerman said, adding that a lack of corroborating evidence led to dismissal of the charges.

Throughout the proceedings, McClard maintained his innocence. He was accused of engaging in mutual masturbation with the boy twice in 1986 and once in August, 1987.

McClard was accused last September 3 of fondling the boy some 15 times over the course of the previous year.

Just one day before, on September 2, McClard had filed suit against DeBusk and the Metro Board of Parks and Recreation, seeking damages of \$1 million. He asserted that DeBusk had entrapped him by first mentioning sex in a restroom at Cedar Hill Park in June of 1986.

The charges stemming from the Cedar

Hill Park episode were dropped on technical grounds.

Several respondents to a summer, 1987, survey of park arrestees by the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (then the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights) maintained that they were approached by DeBusk, who they said initiated sexually explicit conversation with them before arresting them on solicitation charges.

McClard maintained that the sex charges involving the teenager resulted from his lawsuit against DeBusk and the Board of Parks and Recreation.

McClard admitted he had "counseled the boy about sex," after he discovered the teenager having sex with a mare at McClard's stable. He suggested that the boy's accusation resulted from his embarrassment at "getting caught."

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AIDS Update

Making AIDS Education Work

By **RUTH SHEETS**
Special to Dare

Nearly two months ago, the U.S. Government distributed a booklet called *Understanding AIDS* to every American household. It was hoped that people would read the booklet and gain basic knowledge about AIDS. It was further hoped that such information would prove valuable to people beginning to change their behavior toward living more safely.

Such a short time has passed since the mailing that we don't know yet if these goals were reached. It seems likely that some folks did get the message.

One thing is clear: this booklet does not in itself signal the end of AIDS education. We've seen over and over throughout this epidemic that some people neither hear nor internalize the information when presented with it only once. Other people simply don't believe what they hear no matter how learned the source.

As an educator, I find this intriguing. Commentators often have observed that Americans are often gullible and fall for almost anything. Advertising plays to this weakness, coaxing us to believe that our body odor, dandruff, "ring around the collar," and gray hair make us fitting targets for scorn and ridicule. Sales of specific deodorants, shampoos, detergents and hair dyes prove that many of us believe it, yet there is no rational reason that we should.

What's going on with AIDS education? Why aren't we always getting through?

Scientists and physicians have been telling us for several years how HIV is transmitted and how it can be prevented. Casual contact was ruled out early in the epidemic as a means of spreading the virus. Although this information is widely distributed, we are asked questions about casual transmission at every presentation. Now, instead of questions about food and doorknobs, we receive inquiries about mosquitoes and toilet seats.

Seven years into the epidemic, the public is still often terrified of AIDS and many feel sure they will be first to get AIDS through casual contact. That would prove that what they knew all the time, that HIV could be transmitted casually, was really true. This makes moving some people beyond their fear and certainty very difficult.

Problems with AIDS education often stem from the logical assumption that, if we just

get the facts to people, they will deal effectively with the disease and avoid contraction of the disease. The facts do help many people.

However, the issue of AIDS has become complicated by factors which often override any factual information. This disease confronts people with two of the issues we would least like to face: our mortality and our sexuality. We would prefer not to be reminded that death and sometimes suffering are part of life and that many of us will not die in a manner we would consider appropriate.

I suspect that we like facing our sexuality even less than our mortality. Human sexuality is complex and the desire to avoid confronting our sexuality will continue to complicate AIDS education and behavior change.

Another important factor in the message not getting through relates to the morality that many people attach to the disease. Many people believe that someone must be blamed for this illness. Because AIDS seems to have entered the United States in the gay community, some folks have decided that they can direct their fear and frustration toward gays. Trying to help these people to see that one cannot attribute morality to a virus that is amoral presents a challenge. I think we can accomplish this through patience and support. Small group or one-on-one discussions can provide the needed patience and support.

Successful AIDS education will meet several criteria while taking into account the fears and reluctance of the audience. First, it must include the facts. Second, it must deal openly with practical methods for preventing transmission of the virus. Third, it must include a substantial question and answer period during which some of the group's homophobia and fear of death can be addressed as well as the religious and moral issues.

The gay community has set a high standard for AIDS education. In this community, considerable success has been demonstrated. Education for the general public must follow that example. We must work together for the success of the whole community in changing attitudes and behavior.

Ruth Sheets, M.Ed., M.Div. is the Education Coordinator for the Vanderbilt AIDS Project

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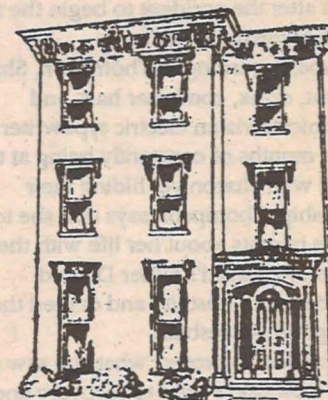
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**Cry out for joy! Cry out for justice!**

For more information about the party, the rally, or about ways to help in the Kowalski case, please call 297-4293.
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WAREHOUSE 28 • 2529 Franklin Road • 385-9689**Film Director Faces Porn Charges**

By **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

An "adult" film director, facing trial in Nashville on federal pornography charges, last week pleaded not guilty for his part in an alleged pornographic film distribution scheme.

David Rosen, whose films include *You Said a Mouthful* and *Please Sir* pleaded not guilty in federal court before U.S. Magistrate Joe Haynes during arraignment proceedings. The New Windsor, N.Y., native is charged in a federal indictment for aiding and abetting the national distribution of pornographic materials through the U.S. mail by three Chicago men.

The Chicago men are described by federal investigators as operating a large scale pornography ring. Steve Toushin, owner of Chicago's Bijou Theater, and two associates, Sean O'Connor and Randy Larsen, are charged in the indictment handed down in federal court hear earlier this month with

sending Rosen's films through the mail to at least two Nashville addresses.

Toushin's attorney, Chicagoan Louis Carbonaro, has contended throughout the proceedings that the films are not pornographic. Rather, according to Carbonaro, they are "adult" material.

However, Assistant U.S. Attorney Wendy Goggin calls the two films "slick productions of sado-masochistic acts between homosexual men."

"It's a slick production - obviously intended for mass distribution and not of the home movie type," Goggin told the *Tennessean*. "There's not much of a story and very little dialogue."

If found guilty of violating federal obscenity laws for his role as director, Rosen faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a possible \$250,000 fine on each of the four counts. No date has been set for the trial before U.S. District Judge John T. Nixon.

Curtains**Falsettos on Parade**

By **SHERRE DRYDEN**
Entertainment Editor

March of the Falsettos. By William Finn, directed by Garry M. Estep. At Actors' Playhouse, 2318 West End Avenue, through August 13.

You need to see *March of the Falsettos*.

Make no mistake, William Finn's play (I guess its a play — there's not a word of dialog, only singing) is not great drama. Its not even great music, although some of the singers are very good. But it is entertaining, funny and silly and sometimes moving.

Falsettos is the story of five rather confused people. Marvin (Mark Lynn) is "a man who wants it all." "All" means maintaining a pseudo-nuclear family relationship with his ex-wife Trina (Trish Jackson) and son Jason (Greg McPeak) while also having Whizzer (Thom Byrum), the man he left them for. Amazingly, he appears to be getting his way until Trina consults Marvin's psychiatrist Mendel (Richard Patier) about Jason.

Mendel instantly falls for Trina (a big surprise — Mendel initially comes across at least as queer as Jason and Whizzer) and she, although not in love with Mendel, wants something and agrees to marry him. Marvin is not amused.

Even though they vary in singing ability, the actors are just right.

Trish Jackson is wonderfully wicked and Mark Lynn manages a sympathetic portrait of the basically selfish Marvin. I don't know whose idea it was, but casting McPeak, an adult, as the adolescent (at most) Jason was inspired. He's effectively wistful without being annoyingly cute. Patier, who I originally assumed to have a minor role, gave a strong, engaging performance. I'd like to see him again.

Byrum, who looks a little like Glenda Jackson, turns a stereotype into a person with feelings — you even get to watch it happen. Unfortunately, especially since Whizzer sings that he "values style," Byrum

has a most unstylish costume. He wears a pink shirt with a 70's long, pointed collar and wide-bottomed trousers that end just above the floor. Perhaps this is meant to be a subtle point. All I know is that no gay man I know who claims to value style would be caught dead in that outfit.

My only other complaint, a petty one I know, is about the set. The action takes place in three locations — Trina's kitchen, Mendel's office and Marvin and Whizzer's living room.

All three places are on stage at all times and the characters move freely from place to place. Lighting highlights the primary location(s) — sometimes characters in all three places sing simultaneously, sometimes one location is more important than others. Each location is "decorated" with pictures, knick-knacks, extra furniture. The result is cluttered and unattractive. A minimal approach, with just the essentials, would have been more visually pleasing.

If I were musical, I would probably have left the theatre singing. Jason's song "My Father's a Homo" gets honors for catchiest title and "March of the Falsettos," which must be seen to be appreciated, is hilarious.

In fact, most of the songs are quite funny, but the ending is serious and emotional. Lynn and McPeak, who must be nearly the same age, are very moving and believable as father and son. *March of the Falsettos* is definitely something to see.

The opening performance of *March of the Falsettos* was a benefit for the Vanderbilt AIDS Project. Sadly, the benefit was not well publicized and attendance was low. With an entertaining, un-depressing production like *Falsettos* and a reception courtesy of Marty's, people should have been hanging out the windows of the tiny Actors' Playhouse.

The actors, director Garry Estep and the rest of the production staff and theatre Artistic Director Dennis Ewing and Producer Janet Claire gave generously — what went wrong?

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By **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

If you were walking through Hickory Hollow or Rivergate malls and encountered a group of teenagers, chances are you would have a difficult time determining which in the group might possibly be homosexual.

The thought might not even cross your mind. But, by most conservative estimates, at least one teenager in ten is "different."

He may be the star quarterback for his high school's football team or the president of the Library Club.

She could be the song leader for the Future Homemakers of America or the pitcher for the district championship softball team.

As diverse as the adult lesbian and gay population may be, so too is the teenaged lesbian and gay population. They come from all backgrounds, from the posh mansions of Belle Meade to the housing developments of East Nashville.

And depending upon how they deal with their sexual orientation while in high school - and perhaps more importantly, how their friends deal with *them* - could determine the emotional health and stability of their adult lives.

Let your imagination take you back to that group of teenagers in the mall:

Amid their laughter and apparent *joie de vivre* they are introspective and reflective - living in a world filled with threats of nuclear war, hunger, homelessness and AIDS. Theirs is not a *Leave it to Beaver* world where Mom welcomes them home with milk and cookies and a smile. Instead, they are faced with the realities that television sitcoms choose to gloss over or ignore entirely.

Seventeen-year-old Patrick, at first glance, appears to be like the other kids. Respectable, he looks bookish and sensitive - but not necessarily bent.

But bent he is. And Patrick plans to deal with his sexual orientation now, so that his future will be unclouded by some sublimations that could be harmful - if not to others, then to himself.

"As far back as fifth or sixth grade, I had feelings that I was uncertain about, but I didn't label them as 'being gay.' I really didn't know what that meant," he remembers.

Gradually, however, Patrick realized that his homosexual yearnings weren't going away and that he could give them a name. But it wasn't until he was in high school that he spoke the name to another human being.

"I told my best friend in September of about two years ago, I guess. Yeah, it was the start of the school year in 1986. He had suspected I was gay and had questioned me about it," Patrick recalls.

"I would always be defensive about it. I remember the time he brought it up at school during lunch one day. There was a big group of people sitting at the table and I was very distraught that he would bring it up like that."

The untimeliness of his friend's query made Patrick realize that the time would soon come when he would have to tell his friend about his sexual orientation. And, ready or not, that time came.

"When I told him about it, he seemed okay. He just said he was upset that I hadn't told him earlier," Patrick says.

Teens deal with their homosexuality

Coming of Age

But the apparent ease with which his friend accepted Patrick's confession seemed to quickly fade: "He told me he was embarrassed to be around me. The relationship deteriorated and I became very depressed for a while and really felt sorry for myself."

The two teenagers made a pact to never mention "it" again and to try to avoid each other for the remainder of the school year.

By now, Patrick was emboldened by his

friend became something of an emotional roller-coaster ride. And before he knew it, the only two people he had told about being gay began to discuss Patrick's revelation.

"I thought everyone at school knew about me and I thought maybe I was paranoid at first, but they had begun to talk about it to other people," he says.

"One day my first friend came up to me at lunch and asked me to come out in the hallway because he wanted to talk to me. He said that he and my other friend were tired of me staring at them all the time, because they 'knew' I was attracted to them."

Patrick admits the episode was a painful one, but says that now he and his once-upon-a-time friends have reached a grudging understanding and acceptance of one another.

Now many of his classmates are aware that Patrick is indeed gay and many are quick to question him about his sexual orientation and his decision to admit it. Many of their questions are laughable, Patrick admits, but still others are disturbing and point to a lack of understanding.

The subject of AIDS tends to frequently crop up during discussions with others his age.

"They ask, 'Do you have AIDS?' or 'Aren't you worried about AIDS?' I always say, 'Sure, I'm worried about AIDS, but that's something that we should all worry about whether we're gay or straight.' Any sexually active teenager should be aware of AIDS. It really makes me mad when people see that as the only issue facing gay people today," he asserts.

Due in large part to one of his former

"He said that he and my other friend were tired of me staring at them all the time, because they 'knew' I was attracted to them."

first efforts at coming out and chose to tell another friend, whose initial reaction was disbelief.

"He said he thought I was making it up to gain attention. I thought that was pretty stupid - to say I was gay just to get attention. That doesn't make much sense, does it?" Patrick asks.

Patrick's relationship with his second



friends, Patrick approached a teacher who he thought might be sympathetic to his plight as a gay youth. The woman offered Patrick the first affirmation of his sexual orientation and suggested that he contact the Rev. Paul Tucker at Metropolitan Community Church-Nashville for counseling.

"That experience made me realize that I wasn't alone and helped me to feel better about myself," Patrick says. "And one day, while at Davis-Kidd, I found the *Advocate*, which was really helpful. I realized this was a national publication and that must mean there were a lot more people like me in the world."

Since that discovery, Patrick has set a course for the future which includes coming out to his parents and living a life free from the confines of any closet.

"My mom still doesn't know about me, but I told my dad a couple of weeks ago," he says.

And Dad's reaction to the news that his 17-year-old son is gay?

"He took it much better than I thought [he would], but cautioned me about the pitfalls of being out and the doors that might be closed for me in the future," Patrick says.

"It's funny that I told him first instead of my Mom, 'cause I'm much closer to her. I want to tell her but I haven't found the right time to do it."

However, Patrick has broached the subject of homosexuality with his mother who told him that she was "all for gay rights, but wouldn't want to be friends with any."

Patrick's mother's reaction closely mirrors the reaction of Julie's parents.

Tall, slender and blonde, Julie realized at

the age of 16 that she was a lesbian, a fact she hid from her family for four years. However, days before her 20th birthday, she revealed her secret to her parents.

"My lesbianism is completely unacceptable to my parents. But I've never had a very good relationship with them," she confesses.

Julie's recognition of her lesbianism came when she left her Nashville home for Minnesota and treatment for a drug and alcohol abuse problem. Upon entering the treatment program, she realized she was a lesbian and came out to the staff and other patients.

Julie is quick to point out, however, that her sexual orientation had no bearing on her dependence on drugs and alcohol.

For her, coming out was made easier by the fact she was hundreds of miles from her family and friends in Tennessee.

"I never felt being a lesbian was wrong and I didn't seek counseling to change that," she says. "But I didn't come out to my friends at home because I was fearful of their reaction."

Upon her return, however, she didn't see any of her old friends, because she says, "they were straight and I wasn't really interested in associating with them any longer."

Now 21, Julie vividly remembers telling her parents about her sexual orientation and their shock at the news. Since then, the relationship with her parents has been rocky at best and she sees them infrequently.

"My parents are very ignorant of AIDS. They won't let me kiss my nephew or niece and refuse to kiss me themselves because they think they can get AIDS that way. They

don't like to use the bathroom after me and won't drink after me. They say they're embarrassed by me," Julie says.

And although Julie had no problems confronting her sexual orientation, she admits that she "wondered about the concept of God" - a radical departure from her Catholic upbringing.

Here, in what many refer to as the buckle of America's Bible Belt, the struggle to come to terms with one's sexual orientation is perhaps made more difficult by the role religion has played in the upbringing of lesbian and gay teenagers.

"I can't understand how [so] many Christians can condone hatred and harassment directed at lesbians and gays. That doesn't fit in with Christian teaching," Patrick contends.

Because he is a Christian, Patrick first sought counseling from a minister - MCC-N's Paul Tucker, who says that in the past several months he has seen "an influx of gay and lesbian teenagers" coming to his office, searching for answers.

Their questions?

"Mostly they come asking, 'What does it mean to be gay or lesbian?'" Tucker says. "For a boy, he may want to know if being gay means dressing in drag or camping it up. Girls want to know if being a lesbian means playing butch or femme roles."

directs at Tucker is, "Where do I meet other people like me?"

Tucker, for one, doesn't always have the answers: "We've explored how we, as a church, could facilitate a support group for gay and lesbian teenagers."

However, lawyers advised MCC-N against any official sponsorship of a support group, warning that, without parental consent, charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor are possible given the tenor of local political times.

"Gay and lesbian teens are going to have to do it for themselves, I think," Tucker says. "Perhaps through informal gatherings and networking, they can form a support group

would serve.

"We've talked about a support group for gay and lesbian teens but that opens a lot of questions. For example, 'Are they out to their parents?'" Lass says.

Lass admits, however, that few teens come to Oasis Center seeking counseling to deal with their sexual orientation.

"We don't encounter that a lot, but I think the struggle occurs more frequently within teenagers than they tell us," he says. "There's a lot of homophobia and misinformation out there and that probably prevents a lot of teenagers from talking about their sexual orientation."

As a result, many teenagers will sublimate their true natures, Lass thinks, leading to "a lack of self-esteem and a sense of fear."

"It is especially difficult for a teenager, denying who you are and living with the pressure of being two different people," he says.

Homophobia, however, is not the only obstacle facing lesbian and gay teenagers. As both Patrick and Julie noted, parents' and friends' ignorance of AIDS can add to the already homophobic atmosphere in which teenagers must survive.

"One of the hallmarks is the 'it-won't-happen-to-me' syndrome," Lass suggests. "I think they [teenagers] are aware of AIDS and

"They can conceive that it can happen to someone *like* them, but they don't think it can happen to *them*. They have difficulty accepting the fact that it can happen to them."

The fact that AIDS can strike anyone, however, only compounds the already difficult experience of coming out while a teenager.

"It must be really horrible to come out in this day and time," Tucker muses. "How do you explore your sexuality when you might die as a result?"

However, AIDS is only one piece of the puzzle of exploring one's sexuality, according to both Patrick and Julie.

For her, Julie says accepting herself has given her "a lot of freedom."

"I've discovered that I don't need a man. And I don't need a woman either. Accepting myself has made me more confident," she contends.

Patrick says his acceptance of the fact he's gay has given him an edge over his classmates: "I would say that I'm more mature. I gained a more mature attitude when I accepted the fact I'm gay."

And what does the future hold for Julie and Patrick?

Julie sees herself living "somewhere out in the country," perhaps working with adolescents as a counselor. Regardless of where she'll be, Julie will "definitely be clean and sober."

Patrick, on the other hand, cottons to the city life. He sees himself in some downtown loft, enjoying success in whatever field he enters after college.

"I want to be happy," Patrick says. "And I definitely plan to be an activist and to get as involved as I can when I grown up."

Until that time, however, he will grapple with the issues of the day, sometimes finding the time to hang out at the mall.

Like teenagers do.

"I've discovered that I don't need a man. And I don't need a woman either. Accepting myself has made me more confident."

themselves."

Oasis Center, a local counseling facility, has also considered starting a support group for lesbian and gay teenagers, but is constrained by the same legal realities as MCC-N. According to family counselor Ken Lass, the need for parental consent often defeats the purpose such a support group

Dare

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

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Dates

Weekly Events

Mondays

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.

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

Nashville CARES AIDS/ARC Support Group.
6:30pm.
Nashville CARES HIV/Chemical Dependency
Support Group. 7pm. Info phone 385-1510.
Support Group for Lesbians and Gay Men
Meeting. 8pm. Info phone 833-4598.

Thursdays

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.

Fridays

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

Saturdays

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

Sundays

Metropolitan Community Church-Antioch
Worship service, 11am. Info phone 833-8581 or 834-
4491.
Metropolitan Community Church-Nashville
Worship services, 11am and 7pm.
The Office Co-ed softball, Mericourt Park,
Clarksville. 1pm.

Special Events

Saturday, July 30

Metropolitan Community Church-Nashville
Church and Community Forum, Metro Parks Director
James Fyke will speak on Metro policy and recent sex-
related arrests of gay men in Metro parks. 8:30 pm.
Free.

Monday, August 1

Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA)
Monthly meeting. Featuring slide show presentation by
members of Short Mountain Sanctuary. Towne House
Restaurant Conference Room. 7pm.

Sunday, August 7

Free Sharon Kowalski Day
Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA)
Birthday party and barbecue in honor of Sharon
Kowalski's 32nd birthday. Hamburgers and soft drinks
will be provided. Volleyball. 1401 Cedar Lane. 6-8pm.
Free. Donation to Sharon Kowalski Legal Defense Fund
requested.
Caravan to Legislative Plaza, 8pm.
Candlelight Vigil and Rally Celebration of the lives of
Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson, featuring
speakers and music by Marianne Osiel, Lisa Roberson,
and Kat Graham. 8:30pm. Free.

Pages

'Second Son' Deserves a Second Look

By FRANK ASHE
Special to Dare

The dust jacket of Robert Ferro's *Second Son* is replete with caution signals for the experienced reader. The cover design, of night sky and empty chairs, looks ominous. The back features no less than three paragraphs of "early praise" by moderately well-known authors, and one of them, Anne Rice, tells us that the book is - portentous phrase - "exquisitely written."

Beyond the reasonable deduction that the next works from Rice *et al* are apt to bear early praise from Robert Ferro, one can guess that the subject is depressing the style so evanescently *artistique* that only the most relentlessly refined Edmund White fan could possibly read it. (His quote, by the way, is tucked inside the front cover.) Both guesses are correct, but only up to a point.

The subject, of course, is AIDS. Almost from the first we learn that the main character, Mark Valerian, has been diagnosed. At the opening of the novel, he is living alone in the family beach house, nursing his still-mild symptoms and trying to come to terms with the disease and with his family, principally two sisters, a brother and his father. The latter, especially, is difficult, bearing the sudden twin crosses of Mark's illness and the near-failure of his business. The question of selling the beach house, beloved of the dead mother, has been raised; Mark alone is adamantly opposed.

A new interest enters Mark's life on a visit to Rome, where he is essentially "fixed up" (by letter from Matthew, a mutual acquaint-

tance) with Paul, another PWA whose lover has recently died. The blossoming relationship between the two forms the core of the book.

Ferro's style is indeed generally high, refined and metaphorical. A description of a beach house dawn is typical: "At sunrise the lemon, red and orange colors of the sun revolved over the white curtains like flames, drifting down the wall as the sun rose, as in a stateroom on an enormous, slowly listing ship."

But the reflective, autumnal style, skillfully sustained, is undoubtedly suitable to the subject matter, and it is pleasant to report that the book is not entirely without humor. Mark responds smartly to his sister's insistence that "it's just a house" by saying, "You could say that's just an ass you're sitting on, but you would hate to lose it."

Several thematic questions percolate quietly through the novel, among them the meaning of family - an old interest of Ferro, author of *The Family of Max Desir* - and the question, among all those reproductive relatives, of just what gay people are for. Mark's attachment to the beach house seems to indicate that gays contribute a certain sensitivity to nuance and connection, to tradition and the past, that would otherwise be lacking.

A related idea, but oriented to the future, is raised late in the book by Matthew, Mark's matchmaking correspondent. His letters introduce an odd, slightly discordant science fiction element when he sends word of a gay group, Project Lambda, which is planning to

escape such things as AIDS, pollution and the nuclear threat by emigrating to the planet Splendor, circling the neighboring star Sirius. Since the Splendorans are gay and presumably have none of these evils, the idea of their being heterosexually caused or abetted is clear. As Matthew writes, "...we are the first in history to want to leave the planet. It is the reason why Nature developed us as an idea: as an unlikely idea to save itself from extinction." We never learn whether Project Lambda is real or whether Matthew is becoming deranged.

Despite the fillip of interstellar dishing and with all due respect to the author, the feeling lingers that there is a certain sameness to AIDS novels. The disease itself is monotonous in its terrible inexorability and is too seldom relieved by any variety in those who must cope with it. Mark and Paul, like so many other protagonists, are upper-middle class white gay men with arch sensibilities and acres of real estate, able to take off to foreign climes and exotic locales for their stylish intimations of mortality. The truth of the matter is that the struggle with AIDS is too often characterized by poverty, isolation and desperation of the most wrenchingly unironic kind. These AIDS stories, it seems, are not getting told.

Still, *Second Son* is an acutely sensitive, well-written novel, seeming in the end neither despairing nor hoping, offering instead a gentle valediction. It perhaps makes as much sense, and as good art, out of AIDS as can be managed. It is not enough, but that is not anyone's fault.

Views

A Duke in the Hand is Worth Two Of a Bush

When Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis announced his choice of a running mate last week, many lesbian and gay Tennesseans were appalled at his selection of Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who was the choice of some seven million voters during the protracted primary process, was believed by many to be the better choice for the vice presidential slot on the Democrats' ticket. The exclusion of Jackson from the ticket left many of his supporters wondering if they themselves were being excluded by the Democratic Party. The controversy swirled, not only at the nominating convention in Atlanta, but throughout the rest of the country as well.

Despite Jackson's urging that his supporters take up the mantle of the unified Democratic ticket, many lesbians and gay men felt disenfranchised. They felt all hope was gone.

But during his Tuesday evening address to the thousands of Democratic party faithful gathered in Atlanta, Jackson showed us all that the hope lives on. It is our duty, he told us, to keep that hope alive.

Still, there are those people who feel dejected now that Jackson is out of the race. That race has dwindled to a two-person race - Gov. Dukakis and apparent Republican nominee Vice President George Bush.

As Jackson so eloquently pointed out, Dukakis is by far the better candidate for the job.

Although Dukakis is somewhat soft on lesbian and gay issues - he has been called to task time and time again for his lack of support for lesbian and gay foster parenting - he nonetheless has offered support of the lesbian and gay civil rights bill currently pending in Congress.

And on the subject of AIDS, Dukakis has been among the more vocal proponents of

increased funding for research, education and care among the seven Democrats who first set out in search of the elusive prize - the presidential nomination.

Vice presidential nominee Bentsen, while by all indications a conservative politician, will no doubt be loyal to Dukakis and will follow his lead - during the campaign and throughout their administration.

The issue of lesbian and gay rights is addressed in the Democratic platform. While that document is, by and large, a public relations tool for a candidate, it nonetheless tells us that the Democratic Party is at least paying lip service to our concerns.

And while that is not the perfect scenario, it will at least assure us that the words "gays and lesbians" will be uttered by party faithful from Bangor to Seattle.

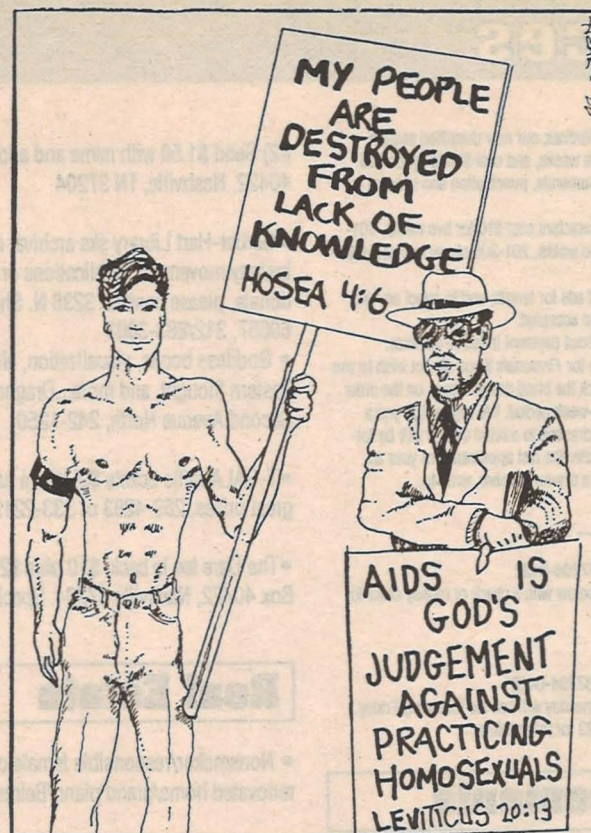
The Republican Party and Vice President Bush, on the other hand, have not offered any proof that they even know what a lesbian or a gay man is.

It is fairly safe to assume that would-be President Bush would offer no support of a lesbian and gay rights bill in congress. The current Reagan administration gives us every indication of what the next four years could mean for us if Bush is elected in the fall.

Jesse Jackson may be out of the running - for now. But he will be back, this much we know. Until then our course of action is clear - elect a ticket that will be in our best interests.

A ticket headed by George Bush is not in our best interests. We must give the Republicans their walking papers and serve notice that eviction from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is imminent.

The election of Michael Dukakis as president will help to keep the hope expressed by the Jackson campaign alive. We urge you to work for his election in November.



Box 40422

Dear *Dare*:

I'd like to set the record straight!

As a Tennessee delegate to the Democratic National Convention, I am committed to fighting for a platform which boldly states the party's commitment to peace abroad and justice at home.

That's why I ran to be a delegate in the first place. And that's why I was shocked to see myself represented in a pre-convention article (Sunday, July 17) written by *Tennessee* reporter Jim O'Hara, as suggesting that my "views on the platform weren't meant to be a guide for policy if the Democrats get elected." Nothing could be further from my position on this matter.

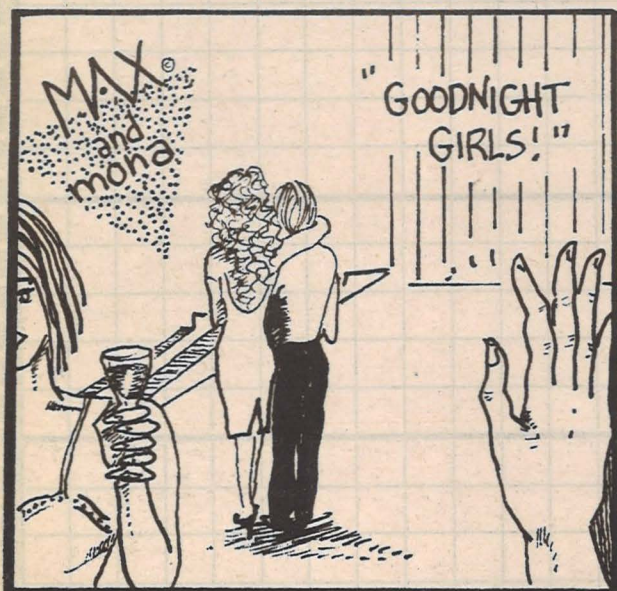
What I said in the interview with Mr. O'Hara was that the platform should remain silent on the issue of taxes because even

though a tax increase may be necessary, "there's no sense in putting your head out on a chopping block."

By stating my preference that the platform stay silent on one issue, I did not mean to imply that the writing of a platform is an empty exercise not meant to guide the party. I believe the platform should speak out strongly on such critical issues as cutting the nuclear arsenals of the superpowers; ending aid to the Contras; providing affordable housing for the homeless; and increasing funding for AIDS research and care of AIDS victims. Furthermore, I believe that the platform should and must guide the policies of the Dukakis administration that I'm going to work hard to elect in the fall.

Paul Slentz
Nashville

Max and Mona



Notices

We're proud to introduce *Notices*, our new classified section. All ads run two consecutive weeks, and cost \$10 for each 100 characters (including letters, numerals, punctuation and spaces) or part thereof.

For example: Up to 100 characters cost \$10 for two weeks, 101-200 characters cost \$20 for two weeks, 201-300 characters cost \$30 for two weeks, and so on.

We reserve the right to edit ads for length, and to reject any ad. Sexually explicit ads will not be accepted.

No ad will be accepted without payment in full in advance.

Blind drawers are available for *Personals* if you do not wish to use your own address. Please check the blind drawer space on the order form, and add \$5 for each two-week period. We will assign you a drawer number. Responses addressed to a blind drawer will be forwarded to you for four weeks after the last appearance of your ad.

To respond to an ad using a drawer number, write to:

Dare
Drawer # _____
Box 40422
Nashville, TN 37204-0422

Send your ad on the form below with a check or money order for the full amount to:

Dare
Box 40422
Nashville, TN 37204-0422

Ads received by noon Wednesday will run the following Friday. Questions? Phone 292-9623 for information.

Announcements

• Therapeutic massage for womyn & gay men by appointment. Rita Roxas 352-1369

• Gay or lesbian teenagers who would like to meet others and are interested in forming a support group in Nashville: write Box 158002, Nashville 37215-0082. All correspondence held in strictest confidence.

• Lesbian and gay parents group forming. Information phone 646-7225

• TIMBERFELL LODGE: 250 private acres. Mountains, creeks, pond. Gourmet food, deluxe rooms, sauna, jacuzzi, horseback riding, and bunkroom. Clothes optional. Men only. Airport pickup. Write ATTN: DAR, Route 11, Box 94A, Greeneville, TN 37743 (615) 234-9272 or 234-0439. 2 miles off I-81 at exit 36.

• Missed a Dare? Back issues mailed to you (except V1

#2) Send \$1.50 with name and address to Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204

• Gerber-Hart Library seeks archival material from early les/gay movement. Publications or memorabilia to donate, please contact. 3238 N. Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657, 312/883-3003

• Goddess books, visualization, alternative health, Eastern thought, and more...Dragonfly Books 112 Second Avenue North, 242-1250

• T-GALA raffle tickets \$2! Win a car or any of 40 other great prizes. 269-4283 or 333-2215 for details.

• The Dare tee is back. \$10 plus \$2 p&h to Dare Tee, Box 40422, Nashville 37204. Specify L, XL or XXL.

Real Estate

• Nonsmoker/responsible female or male to share fine renovated home/grand piano/Belmont Blvd/292-2006

• GWM seeks nonsmoking roommate to share 2 bdrm 2 bath apt by Priest Lake. \$250 + half util. 883-6507

• Seeking roommate; lovely 2 BR, bi-level, furn apt in Edgefield; exquisite gardens; \$250/mo inc. util. 254-3620

Personals

• Hey, Sarge K.! Congrats on another great job! Love, yr very male admirer.

• Attractive GWF seeks the same type of woman, slim & feminine between the ages of 24-35 for relationship or friendship. Dare Drawer 11.

• LWF would like to correspond with lesbians in the middle Tenn area. P.O. Box 11, Lawrenceburg, TN



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

25-CENT DRAFT
Wednesday 7 pm - 11 pm

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

Nashville CARES. Won't you care, too?

*AIDS/ARC Support Groups
Family Support Group
HIV Education Support Groups*

Nashville Council on AIDS Resources, Education and Services
Box 25107, Nashville, TN 37202
Education call 385-AIDS

For information on individual or group counseling call 385-1510

Easy does it.

Ad Order Form Please print one character per box. A character is any letter, numeral, space or punctuation mark. We reserve the right to edit for length.

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Do you want a blind drawer number? ☐ Yes. Add \$5 per two-week period. ☐ No

Run this ad for ☐ 2 weeks ☐ 4 weeks ☐ 6 weeks ☐ 8 weeks ☐ 10 weeks ☐ _____ weeks

This ad costs ☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$30 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$50 for 2 weeks \$ _____

x number of two-week periods _____

+ blind drawer charge \$ _____

Total cost \$ _____

Please enclose check or money order for total amount, payable to **Dare**.

Send to : **Dare**

Box 40422
Nashville, TN 37204-0422

Ads received by noon Wednesday will run the following Friday.

\$10

\$20

\$30