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 process of rehabilitation.

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

As a consequence, Thompson and her supporters believe, Sharon Kowalski’s right to live as a couple has been violated. 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 Vanderbilts Women’s Week this past spring, and has gained national support for her case.

“Thompson’s recent efforts have gained 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 Otter, 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.”

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.”
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 grey 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 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 immoral 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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**Happy Birthday, Sharon!**

Help us celebrate, with cities across the nation, Sharon Kowalski's 32nd birthday. Come to a backyard barbecue Sunday, August 7, 6-9pm at 1401 Cedar Lane. Hamburgers and soft drinks will be provided. At 8pm, join the caravan to Legislative Plaza to celebrate the lives of Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson with a candlelight vigil, speakers, and music by Marianne Diegel, Lisa Roberson, and Kat Graham.

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**Films on Parade**

By SHERRIE DRYDEN
Entertainment Editor
March of the Falsettos is the story of five men — three places sing simultaneously, sometimes characters in all three places sing simultaneously. Amazingly, he appears to be getting the right two singing. Jason's song "My Father's a Homo" honors for catchiest catchall 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.

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**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 "slight productions of sadomasochistic acts between homosexual men."

"It's a slick production - obviously intended for mass distribution and not of the home movie type," Goggin told the Tennessee. "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.

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Teens deal with their homosexuality

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 teenager 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 'joi 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. Bespectacled, 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 the start of the school year in 1986. He had another friend whose initial reaction was disbelief."

"I told him 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 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 get 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 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.

"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
friends, Patrick approached a teacher who thought he 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 confeses.

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.

"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 grow 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.
**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 Alcoholes Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 6pm.

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

**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. 6pm. info phone 933-4568.

**Thursdays**
- **Nashville CARES** AIDS/ARC Support Group. 5pm.
- **Alcoholes Anonymous** Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC. 6pm.
- **Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholes (ACOA)** Info phone 385-4776 or 362-5823. 8pm.

**Fridays**
- **Sexaholics Anonymous** Closed meeting, MCC. 5pm.
- **Alcoholes 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-Nashville** Worship service, 11am. Info phone 833-8581 or 834-4461.
- **Metropolitan Community Church-Nashville** Worship services, 11am and 7pm.
- **The Office** Co-ed softball, Murfreesboro 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 lives of Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson, featuring speakers and music by Marianne Osiel, Lisa Roberson, and Kat Graham. 8:30pm. Free.

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**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 inexperienced 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 “especially 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 *artistic* 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. Eventually, 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 acquaintance) 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 just as 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 Man 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 tonuance 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 Splendoria, circling the neighboring star Sirius. Since the Splendorians are gay and presumably have none of these evils, the idea of their being heterosexually caused orabetted 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 disher 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 hopeful, offering instead a gentle valiation. 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.
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 exclusion of Jackson from the ticket. 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.

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 Tennessean reporter Jim O'Hara, as suggesting that my "views on the platform aren't meant to be a guide for policy if the Democrats get elected." Nothing could be further from my position on this matter.

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.

Pat Stenz
Nashville
**Announcements**

- Therapeutic massage for women & gay men by appointment. Rita Rokea 352-1369
- Gay or lesbian teenagers who would like to meet others and are interested in forming a support group in Nashville: write Box 156022, Nashville 37215-0082. All correspondence held in strictest confidence.
- Lesbian and gay parents group forming. Information phone 646-7225.
- Missed a Dare? Back issues mailed to you (except V1)

**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

**Easy does it.**

1. Send $1.50 with name and address to Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204
2. Gerber-Hart Library asks archival material from early AIDS/gay movement. Publications or memorabilia to donate, please contact: 3238 N. Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657, 312-863-3003
3. Goddess books, visualization, alternative health, Eastern thought, and more...Dragonfly Books 112 Second Avenue North, 242-1250
4. T-GALA raffle tickets $2! Win a car or any of 40 other great prizes. 269-4283 or 333-2215 for details.
5. 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. 863-6507
- Seeking roommate; lovely 2 BR, bi-level, furn apt in Edgefield; exquisite gardens; $250/mo incl. util. 254-3620

**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 Persons 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 252-1023 for information.

**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.