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# Dare

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**Free**

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 25

THE LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 9-15, 1988

## Les/Gay Community Leaders Meet Mayor

*Metro Nashville Mayor Bill Boner Receives Activists*

By **JEFF ELLIS**  
Managing Editor

Following a Wednesday meeting with Nashville Mayor Bill Boner, local activists expressed hope for future cooperation between the Mayor's office and the local lesbian and gay community.

"All in all, I'd say it was a good meeting," said Ann Taylor, lobby committee co-chair for the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA). "But it will be two weeks, a month, two months, possibly even three, before we know just how good the meeting really was."

The meeting between Boner and lesbian/gay leaders came as a result of August 16 meetings held as a part of "The Mayor's Night In," a program designed to open the lines of communication between Boner and his constituents.

Several activists attended "The Mayor's Night In" in an effort to determine the source of misunderstandings between the Mayor's office and activist groups.

Boner conceded during that August meeting that his "staff dropped the ball" during discussions in June regarding a proposed mayoral proclamation for Pride Week '88 festivities.

"To be honest with you, I just heard about this a couple of weeks ago," Boner said in August. "If I had known in June, it would have

been handled differently."

It was the lack of a Mayoral proclamation for Pride Week and subsequent failure of discussions to resolve the issue which led lesbian and gay leaders to request Wednesday's meeting with Boner.

Deborah Burks, co-chair of Advance, T-GALA's political action committee, called the Mayor's agreement to a meeting "a definite step forward."

"We basically were laying groundwork to build a working relationship upon. I think the Mayor showed that he is open to the establishment of a relationship with our community," Burks said.

"I thought it was a necessary first step," said Penny Campbell, media response co-chair for T-GALA. "It went as well as I would have expected it to go. It could have gone much worse."

During Wednesday's meeting, a number of specific proposals were made to the Mayor which the lesbian/gay leaders think are vital to easing tensions and establishing rapport.

Among proposals were the appointment of a liaison from the Mayor's office to the lesbian/gay community and the creation of a Mayoral task force on AIDS "to study and recommend Metro government action."

"I think he (Boner) agreed with some of continued on page 4



*Paul Phillips and Ron Romanovsky, also known as Romanovsky & Phillips, the gay Smothers Brothers, will make a Nashville appearance Sunday, November 6. The concert will be sponsored by the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA).*

## Nashville Women to "Take Back the Night" Next Week

By **DEBORAH BURKS**  
Staff Writer

Asserting the right to personal safety in the streets as well as in their homes, Nashville women will "Take Back the Night" on Saturday, September 17.

The "Take Back the Night" march and rally have been planned by the Nashville chapter of the National Organization for Women and a coalition of other concerned groups. Organizers say this year's march is the first for Nashville since 1979.

According to Lynne Cushing, chair of the planning committee, "Take Back the Night" is intended to increase public awareness about the prevalence of rape and violence against women. Cushing also hopes this demonstration will make public officials aware of these problems and thus lead to changes in the way the justice system deals with crimes against women.

Cushing noted that an average of 60 reported rapes occur in Nashville each month.

"As a city, we must define rape and domestic violence as serious problems and address them as such," she said.

The "Take Back the Night" march will begin from two sites at 6 p.m. One wing of the march will gather at 9th Avenue and Broadway, and proceed down Lower Broad. The

other march contingent will start at the Metro Employees parking lot and cross the Woodland Street Bridge. Both wings will converge at Riverfront Park at 7 p.m. for a rally and a speak-out.

Speakers at the rally will include Metro Council members Pat Frye and Jo Ann North, Fisk University chaplain Justina Archibald and Nashville NOW president Holly Spann. Music at the rally will be provided by Judy continued on page 4

## National Coming Out Day Planned Lesbians, Gay Men Urged to "Take Your Next Step"

By **JEFF ELLIS**  
Managing Editor

Tuesday, October 11 - the day hundreds of thousands of Americans took part in the historic March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights - will be commemorated this year with National Coming Out Day with celebrations in Nashville and throughout the country.

According to Penny Campbell and Gary Bellamy, local coordinators of the event, plans are currently under way for a variety of actions to "take the next step" in the coming out experience.

"One of the actions we want to do is to get as many same-sex couples as possible to go to the Howard School Building on Second Avenue to apply for marriage licenses. The involvement in that action can be on many levels of participation. I personally plan to stay there until I'm taken away," said Bellamy.

He further said that in recognition of "The

Wedding," held as a part of the March on Washington last year, a "commemorative restatement of those vows" will be held Tuesday night.

"We'll have someone there to conduct the ceremony to reaffirm our 'couple-ism,'" he said, adding that a vigil to honor those members of the lesbian/gay community who have been affected by the AIDS epidemic will also be held as a part of local festivities.

Campbell said that participation in National Coming Out Day is not limited to taking part in planned activities such as the action at the marriage license bureau.

"It's a personal day for people to take that next step in the coming-out continuum," she said. "That next step could be as small as saying to yourself, 'I'm a lesbian,' or as big as calling a radio phone-in show and saying, 'I'm a lesbian.'"

"It's a step forward in our being able to be continued on page 4

### INSIDE

*Dare goes to the movies, page 5.*

*Patrick Hills goes to the post office. One in Teen, page 7.*

# September

## Mondays

### Nashville CARES

AIDS/ARC Support Group. 6:30pm. HIV Education Support Group. 6pm. Family Support Group. 6:30pm. Info phone 385-1510.

### Lambda Group

Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 8pm.

## Tuesdays

### Vanderbilt Lambda Association

Meeting for gay and lesbian Vanderbilt students, faculty, staff and alumni. 6pm. Info phone 298-9931.

### AI-Anon

Open meeting, MCC-Nashville. 6:30pm.

### Nashville CARES

HIV Education Support Groups. 7pm. Info phone 385-1510.

### Sober Sisters (Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous)

Closed meeting, MCC-Nashville. 8pm.

## Wednesdays

**Sex Addicts Anonymous** Closed meeting for gay men and lesbians. MCC-Nashville. 5:30pm.

### Nashville CARES

AIDS/ARC Support Group. 6:30pm. HIV Support Group. 7pm. Info phone 385-1510.

## Thursdays

### Nashville CARES

HIV Support Group. 6:30pm. Info phone 385-1510.

**Alternatives (Alcoholics Anonymous)** Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC-Nashville. 8pm.

**Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA)** Meeting. 8pm. Info phone 385-4776 or 352-5823.

## 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

### Manna New Life Church

Worship service, 11am. Info phone 833-8581 or 834-4491.

### Metropolitan Community Church-Nashville

Worship services, 11am and 7pm. Info phone 320-0288.

## SPECIAL Events

★★★★★★★★★★

### Saturday, September 10

#### Church and Community Forum

Making Relationships Permanent, discussion with a panel of couples about successful strategies for long-lasting relationships. Metropolitan Community Church - Nashville, 131 15th Ave North. 8:30pm(following weekly Mortgage Meal). Free. Info phone 320-0288.

### Sunday, September 11

**Feminist Book Circle** Meeting. Discussion of works by Katherine Forrester. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd. 5-7pm. Free. Info phone 298-9931.

**Pride Week '89 Committee** Planning meeting. 1401 Cedar. 1pm. Info phone 297-4293.

### Monday, September 12

**Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA)** Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7pm. Free.

### Saturday, September 24

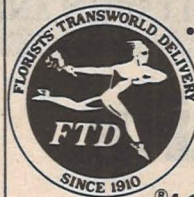
#### Gay Cable Network/Nashville

Premier and celebration. Benefit for the Gay Cable Network/Nashville. Buffet and champagne, Warehouse 28. 7pm. \$3. Info phone 385-9126.

Your nonprofit event can be listed free in *Dare*. 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.

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## Deborah Burks

Staff Writer

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## Chicken Restaurant Tows Bar Customers' Cars

By STUART BIVIN  
Editor

At least eight, and possibly as many as 14, vehicles belonging to customers of Warehouse 28 were ordered towed by the management of Lee's Famous Fried Chicken last Saturday night from the restaurant's Franklin Road parking lot.

According to Wayne Prince, a manager at Warehouse 28, the cars were towed without warning when club customers parked in the fast food store's lot after hours Saturday night.

"Parking doesn't really get tight enough for people to use their [Lee's] parking lot until around midnight," Prince said. "They [Lee's] close at 10 p.m., so the cars aren't interrupting their business."

Prince said that after several of his customers complained about their cars having been

towed from the Lee's lot, he phoned the manager of the chicken outlet for an explanation.

"He told me that his assistant manager had had the cars towed because he [the assistant manager] thought they looked suspicious," Prince said.

Prince added that there have been problems with bar customers' cars being towed from the Lee's lot before, although not in some time.

"One guy whose car was towed told me that he had asked the manager at Lee's if he could park there after they closed and was told that it was okay," Prince said.

Warehouse 28 will ask its customers not to park in the lot until the situation has changed, and has posted a sign in its lobby warning customers not to use the lot, Prince said. •



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## AIDS Update

### Protect Yourself

By JEFF ELLIS  
Managing Editor

Regardless of what you may have heard, there are only two primary ways you can get AIDS - by having sex (oral, anal or vaginal) with someone who is infected with the AIDS virus or by sharing drug needles and syringes with an infected person.

Pretty simple, huh?

Yes, but there are still a lot of people who are uncertain about how they can contract the disease. And still more who are uncertain about how to prevent it.

Simply put, someone who is infected with the AIDS virus may have the virus in semen or vaginal fluids. The virus can enter the body through the rectum, penis, vagina or mouth. The blood of someone with the virus is, of course, infected.

Frankly, anyone who engages in risky behavior is susceptible to the virus. Sharing needles and syringes definitely qualifies as risky behavior as does anal or vaginal sex without a condom. With oral sex, use of a condom or a dental dam is necessary.

Use of condoms is not a guaranteed preventive measure, but they do increase the odds in your favor. When selecting condoms, be sure and select brands made from latex, which serves as a barrier to the virus. Condoms made from "lambskin" or other natural membranes are more porous and less likely to withstand strenuous sexual activity between two men.

Lubricants are recommended for use with condoms because they decrease friction which could cause the dry condom to break. When using latex condoms, be sure to select a

lubricant that is water-based. Vaseline, lotions, baby oil or Crisco will weaken the condom and may cause it to break.

The use of condoms is one of the primary precautions for "safer sex. The only truly "safe" sex, however, is masturbation or no sex at all.

You won't get AIDS through day-to-day activities involving people with whom you come into contact. You can't get it from casual contact with someone who has AIDS any more so that you can get it from a mosquito bite or the sweat or saliva of a person with the virus.

Giving blood is a safe practice because the needles used by blood banks are thrown away after they are used. There is no way you can come into contact with AIDS by donating blood.

The risk of contracting AIDS from a blood transfusion has been greatly reduced because of steps taken to keep the blood supply as safe as possible. Donors are screened for risk factors and all blood that is donated is tested for the AIDS antibody. Any questions about donating or receiving blood should be directed to the Red Cross blood bank here in Nashville or at local blood banks elsewhere.

At present, there is no known cure for AIDS. Scientists and researchers throughout the world are working to find a vaccine or a cure for the disease. AZT has prolonged the lives of many people with AIDS and holistic treatments have been hailed by some as a means of fighting the ravages of the virus and its accompanying diseases.

But by controlling your own behavior - which doesn't necessarily mean an end to sex - you have an effective weapon against AIDS. •

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## Ballet Begins New Season

From STAFF REPORTS

Three world premieres and a repeat staging of the past season's most popular performance highlight the 1988-89 season of the Nashville Ballet, according to artistic director Dane LaFontsee.

Due to unprecedented demands for tickets to the Spring, 1988, production of *Cinderella*, Nashville Ballet will revive the production for its Spring, 1989, series.

"By repeating *Cinderella* next season we will be able to offer the Nashville public a season of premieres in the fall and spring series, plus *Cinderella* in the spring," LaFontsee said.

Highlighting the fall series, scheduled for October 14-15, will be the world premiere of Victoria Simon's ballet set to Dvorak's "Serenade for Strings." The new ballet features five couples in the classical genre performing what she calls "a romantic pastoral."

Other works included in the fall series are Balanchine's *Allegro Brillante*, a work for two principals and ensemble set to the music of Tchaikovsky's "Opus 75 in E flat," and Gary Masters' "Suite Gagnon."

Highlighting the winter series will be two world premieres on January 13-14, 1989. One of the works, set to the music of Ravel, is choreographed by LaFontsee and the other premiere is choreographed by Edward Myers. Also on the program will be *Opus II*, by LaFontsee and set to an original score by Steve Mato. The other work on the winter program will be *Tangos*, by Brian Pitts, set to Argentinian rhythms.

*Cinderella* will be performed May 5-6, 1989.

Nashville Ballet is a constituent group of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC), calling the James K. Polk Theatre home. Subscription information and tickets are available at the TPAC box office or by calling (615) 741-2784 or 1-800-247-4697.

## ...Mayor meets les/gay leaders

continued from page 1

our proposals and made some concessions. We'll just have to wait and see if the concessions were made in good faith and if he makes good on the promises he made," Campbell said.

According to Burks, future topics of discussion will include a proposed lesbian/gay rights ordinance in Metropolitan Nashville and

Davidson County.

"It's not going to happen in six months or a year, but as we continue to organize and gather strength and support, and as we are better able to lobby Metro council members, it will happen," said Stuart Bivin, editor and publisher of *Dare*, who predicted a state lesbian/gay rights statute would be adopted "in the not-so-distant future." •

## ...take back the night

continued from page 1

Eron, Kat Graham and Marianne Osiel, and Ken Sizemore and Judith Stiles.

In addition to NOW, organizational sponsors of the event include the Rape and Sexual Abuse Center, the Project to End Abuse through Counseling and Education (PEACE) and the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA).

According to T-GALA's Penny Campbell, that group is organizing a lesbian contingent to participate in the march: "It's important for us to be involved as women, but particularly as lesbians because we are frequently victims of

violence. We want to send a message to the male perpetrators of this violence that we aren't going to tolerate it any more."

Though the evening's emphasis will obviously be on women, organizers of the event encourage men to participate.

Cushing hopes the event will do more than raise the consciousness of the community.

"We want this to be an empowering, healing experience for women who have been or are victims of violence. Taking back the night for ourselves will be an uplifting experience," she said. •

## ...National Coming Out Day

continued from page 1

out with each other. If everyone took their next step, our movement would make a quantum leap."

According to Bellamy, at least a part of the day's festivities will focus on gay youth: "We need to talk about the need to support gay youth and our need to find avenues to work with them. This is their time."

Prior to the Tuesday festivities, a number of events in Washington, D.C., will commemorate last year's March. The Names Project Quilt will be on display and other events are

planned.

"I'm talking to a travel agent about arranging for a group flight to Washington for anyone who would be interested in going to take part in that weekend's events," Bellamy said, pointing out that the group would leave on Friday, Oct. 7 and return to Nashville the following Monday.

Sponsored nationally by the National Gay Rights Advocates, further information on the local observance of National Coming Out Day is available from Campbell at 297-4293 or Bellamy at 889-2665. •

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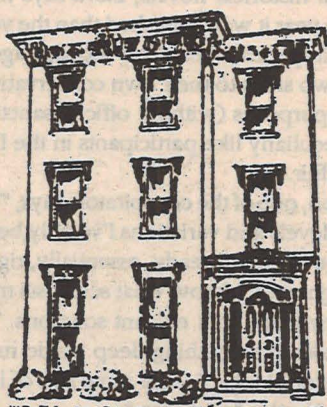
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## Screens

### Racism Betrayed

By **HARRISON HICKS**  
 Staff Writer

*Betrayed*, the new film starring Debra Winger as an FBI agent who infiltrates a right-wing racist organization that resembles the Ku Klux Klan, appears to be following the lead of *The Last Temptation of Christ* in provoking controversy by tackling taboo subjects.

The film begins with the murder of a Chicago talk show host who delights in offending practically everyone, including ultra-right groups that preach doctrines of racial hate, which become the prime targets of a subsequent FBI investigation. Winger, one of the agents assigned to the case, goes undercover as an itinerant farm laborer to investigate a prime suspect, a Midwestern farmer thought to be a leader of a local racist group.

Winger and the farmer, played by Tom Berenger (the evil and calculating sergeant in *Platoon*), fall in love, Winger believing that she's been sent on a wild goose chase.

From there, things take a nasty turn for Winger as, in one of the film's most controversial sequences, Berenger takes her on a nighttime hunt with some of his friends.

To Winger's horror, the object of the hunt is not animal, but a black man who has been designated the target in their "coon hunt." The man is brutally murdered by the group, and

Winger, helpless, flees from Berenger only to return, realizing that she needs more evidence against Berenger and his cronies.

The film then changes direction, focusing on Winger's discovery of a conspiracy plot by Berenger's group to destabilize the American government. *Betrayed* loses some of its momentum afterwards, having switched its focus from a more personal to a broader level, but retains credibility and suspense.

Winger delivers an excellent performance, her best since *Terms of Endearment*, as the agent torn between loyalty to her values and her initial love for Berenger. Her portrayal is what raises *Betrayed* above the level of standard thriller, as the film in places is confusing and events barely skirt the unbelievable.

Despite the story's minor faults, director Costa Gavras delivers a powerful and provocative film. While *Betrayed* is not what one would call an "entertaining" movie, it is an important look at the roots of prejudice and how fear can fan the flames of that prejudice.

Yes, the film is disturbing in its depiction of people who live by creeds of racial hate and like to tell "fag" jokes. Hopefully, however, the film will be able to point out the still-fester problems of racism and homophobia and influence those listening to take action, in whatever small way possible. •

### Eat the Rich? Really!

By **JEFF ELLIS**  
 Managing Editor

Imagine dining at a restaurant with a menu which features "baby koala poached in its own mother's milk" and "baby panda fried in honey."

You certainly want find those delicacies in any of Broadway and 21st Avenue's fashionable eateries. The only place you'll find them is at Bastard's, a trendy London restaurant that provides the setting for Peter Richardson's new film comedy *Eat the Rich*, which is a good deal similar to John Waters' *Desperate Living*.

Bastard's is an ultra-chic restaurant that attracts the ubiquitous society snobs, jet-setters and boors. One of the waiters, Alex (played by transsexual Lanah Pelay, sort of a slimmed-down English version of Waters' star, the late Divine) is fired after repeatedly insulting his customers.

"Where's my fucking tip?" seems to be Alex's most often-used parting shot to his fleeing customers.

To paraphrase an earlier writer, Alex is mad, bad and dangerous to know.

Comparisons of Pelay to Divine are inevitable, but one thing can be said, he/she can deliver lines with the same lady(?)like air which made Divine so, well, divine.

The restaurant business isn't the real focus of *Eat the Rich*. Instead, the movie is a scathing indictment of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Tory government and the current standard of living in England, which favors the wealthy and greatly ignores the lower classes, leaving them to fend for themselves. Much like Reagan's America, when you think about it.

Among government functionaries singled out for lambasting is Noshier (played by Noshier Powell), the Cockney Home Secretary who usually resorts to fisticuffs when dealing

with problems, whatever they may be, including banging two men's heads together to resolve a Middle Eastern conflict.

Noshier - clad in a lime green suit, carrying six-packs of Red Stripe beer, belching and farting to beat the band - even manages to put the moves on Queen Elizabeth during a formal dinner at Buckingham Palace.

Noshier is a rough and tumble hell-raiser who manages to get a little on the side while his wife (Sandra Dorne in a wonderfully unforgettable performance) eats bonbons and lusts after her chauffeur. Actually, the role of the wife would be the one most suited to the late Divine's talents.

By the time Noshier and Alex finally come face to face, Alex has murdered a bitchily nasty civil servant (played by the beautiful Miranda Richardson of *Dance With a Stranger* fame) and gone on the lam. In no time, Alex feels the stirrings of revolution in his soul.

"Hi," Alex says to a would-be revolutionary. "We're starting a people's uprising. Do you fancy joining us?"

Then it's off to London with a rag-tag bag of confederates in tow. The first stop is Bastard's where, after a definitely hostile takeover, the customers become the entrée.

Hence the name, *Eat the Rich*.

Before long it's the place to be seen - much more sought after than seeing one's name in *The Face* - and diners cum dinners beg to be admitted.

At times the action in *Eat the Rich* seems hellbent on sending the characters on a calamitous journey to nowhere. Yet the film's complex structure results in bringing together all the various elements in a neat, though slightly bloodied, package - albeit an entertaining and hilarious one. •

# Dare

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## Pages

### What's Your Sign, Oswald?

*Libra*. By Don DeLillo. NY: Viking, 1988. \$19.95

By JOE MAROHL  
Staff Writer

*Libra* is novelist Don DeLillo's fictional account of the Kennedy assassination. There is very little to say about it except that it is brilliant and uncanny. Every bit as important a contribution to contemporary American fiction as *Catcher in the Rye*, *In Cold Blood* and *Slaughterhouse Five*.

The novel is written in fragments, characteristic of DeLillo's other works. The sense of narrative depends on our assimilation of the Kennedy assassination in our collective memory and popular ideology.

DeLillo's ear for Americanisms in his dialogue is unerring and poetically sparse as haiku. His delineation of character is remarkable - making "life-like" the "real life" *dramatis personae* who have been for most of us merely emblems and names in history.

The book's plot is one half Capote-style journalism about Lee Harvey Oswald's life and one half LeCarré-style spy thriller describing a fictitious conspiracy of ex-CIA agents who want an unsuccessful attempt on JFK's life in order to rekindle public outrage against Fidel Castro and force government support for anti-Castro patriots in Cuba.

The title refers not only to the central character Oswald's birth sign but also to the moral



balance (or imbalance) which is the novel's theme.

Like all historical novels, *Libra* says more about the year it was published than the years it ostensibly describes. The ex-CIA agents playing two sides to their own conservatively patriotic purposes (without official sanction) sound peculiarly like participants in the Iran-Contra affair.

Early on, one of the conspirators says, "This plan has levels and variations I've only begun to explore but it is already, essentially, right. I feel its rightness. I know what scientists mean when they talk about elegant solutions. This plan speaks to something deep inside me. It has a powerful logic." - the same sort of logic in Oliver North's "neat idea."

The well-worn question of whether Oswald acted alone or in concert with other assassins

is treated in tragic terms, the problem of free will versus predestination. As drawn by DeLillo, Oswald is a man looking for freedom and some sense of connection with destiny who becomes a stooge in the schemes of manipulative men with less simple, less innocent ideals.

For those interested, there are even gay elements in the novel. At one point, David Ferrie, a professional pilot and accused co-conspirator, who was openly homosexual, is depicted clumsily seducing Oswald in his apartment, confident that Oswald too is gay.

Internalized homophobia is presented as operative aspects of the psychologies of both Lee Oswald and Jack Ruby, the man who killed him. Ruby frequently asks the people closely associated with him if they think he is queer, if perhaps they think he lisps. He takes his code name "Hidell" from a fellow American serviceman he sees (and instantly identifies with) in a gay bar in Tokyo.

"Hidell" for Oswald comes to mean "hide all" - his ambiguous sexuality being only one part of himself that American society suppresses and channels into violence.

*Libra's* Oswald is a ridiculous Hamlet compelled to vengeance by an equally ridiculous Ghost. DeLillo's point of view is ironic, though not in the tragic sense - destiny itself is a mistake. A cynical point which is at once radically anarchistic and honest. •

### Frankly, Vivien,...

*Vivien - The Life of Vivien Leigh*. By Alexander Walker. NY: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1987. 342 pp.

By JEFF ELLIS  
Managing Editor

Perhaps more so than any of her film contemporaries, Vivien Leigh was identified by the roles she played.

Upon her death in 1967, after decades of battling tuberculosis and manic-depression, the media trumpeted her death with the headline, "Scarlett O'Hara is Dead!" The role which made her a household name in America, along with her roles in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Ship of Fools*, closely mirrored the personal life of the woman known as Lady Olivier - one-half of the royal couple of the British stage.

Some twenty years after her death, London film columnist Alexander Walker has published *Vivien - The Life of Vivien Leigh*, an incisive, yet vaguely reverential, biography of one of the screen's most beautiful actresses.

While Alexander's book covers much of the same territory as that chronicled in Anne Edwards' 1977 *Vivien Leigh*, it nonetheless casts Leigh in a new light. Perhaps the greatest distinction between the two books is Alexander's slightly more scholarly examination of Leigh and the three men who played important roles throughout her life - first husband Leigh Holman, second husband (and the one great love of her life) Laurence Olivier and Jack Merivale, the actor with whom she spent her last years.

Edwards' book is much more gossipy in tone - she writes from a fan's point of view. Alexander, on the other hand, presents an appropriately more critical point of view - but



it is apparent that he, too, is in thrall of Vivien Leigh's legend.

Alexander paints a portrait of Leigh as a gracious, thoughtful and beautiful member of the privileged class. Indeed, her marriage to Olivier helped to confirm the pair's roles as near-equal to royalty in the eyes of British subjects throughout the empire.

There was, however, a decidedly darker, more complex side of Vivien Leigh. She suffered bouts of depression and manic behavior which eventually led to periodic electro-shock treatments both in England and America.

But despite those problems and a lack of much formal dramatic training, Leigh gave some of the most mesmerizing film portrayals in cinema history. Hers was a mercurial rise to film stardom exemplified by her hard-driven determination to win the role of Scarlett O'Hara.

Scarlett was the role of the century and certainly changed Leigh's life - poignantly, Alexander tells of Leigh's reliance on the waltz

theme from *Gone With the Wind* as an elixir to ward off the demons that haunted her mind.

The majority of the book's focus, much like Leigh's herself, is on her relationship with Olivier - from the moment she first sees him on stage to her continued interest in him even until the time of her death.

Alexander chronicles their joint appearances on stage - appearances that resulted in both good and bad notices for the couple. Perhaps it is his somewhat perfunctory examination of the Oliviers' film and stage work that is the only disappointing thing about the book. He mentions the plays and films, alluding rather briefly to whatever problems might have flared up, but stops short of giving satisfactory explanations.

Rather, we are left to figure out for ourselves the cause of Leigh's erratic behavior. But that may have been Alexander's plan; we tend to be very protective of our idols.

At book's end, we are left with a clearer vision of Vivien Leigh as an individual instead of as Scarlett O'Hara or Blanche DuBois.

Certainly, she possessed many of the same traits and shortcomings of those disparate, yet quite similar, Southern belles. She had Scarlett's unending drive and ambition and lifelong ardor for a man unsuited to her passions. And, like Blanche, she depended upon the kindness of strangers as she searched for love and approval in a cathartic attempt to cleanse her soul.

Walker's book is an interesting, even provocative at times, look at one of our screen idols. It is well written and fast paced and is a must read for admirers of Vivien Leigh's screen magic. •

## Views

### Come Out, Come Out

Last year about this time, a small group of Nashvillians were busily preparing for what was to become a turning point in our community's activism.

The March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, held last October, attracted almost three-quarters of a million people to our nation's capital to give voice to our plea for equality and justice. The effects of the March were not just felt in the District of Columbia. Instead they were felt in cities and towns throughout the country and perhaps even throughout the world.

Here in Nashville, many local gay and lesbian leaders have said the March on Washington provided the impetus for a renewed fervor and a genuine move toward activism. Now, as the first anniversary of that momentous occasion approaches, another celebration on a national scale is being brought closer to home as a small group of individuals plan for National Coming Out Day on Tuesday, Oct. 11.

"Take Your Next Step" is the catch-phrase for the observance which is really a commemoration of the spirit of unity and hope that evolved from the March on Washington.

There are those who fear National Coming Out Day. They are the same people whose situations make coming out more difficult or perhaps even impossible. But taking part in the celebration does not necessarily mean walking down the street, banners unfurled. While the day does honor such a brave display of truth and honesty, it also honors the process of coming out on a more personal and individual basis.

It can be as simple as looking in a mirror and, for the first time, saying aloud, "I'm gay."

It can be as complex as looking into the eyes of your parents or friends and, for the first time, saying with pride and conviction, "I'm gay."

National Coming Out Day, while certainly a "national" celebration of who we are and who we can become, may be celebrated in ways much more private and personal. It may be seen as an opportunity for reflection and introspection.

That, perhaps, is the most important aspect of the day's meaning - a chance to be yourself. It is a chance to feel validated and empowered.

And confident enough to take your next step. •

## One in Teen

### Opening the Mail

By PATRICK HILLS

Contributing Writer

Guess what? It finally happened!

After weeks and weeks of opening my post office box just to find it empty, one morning I opened it to find a letter.

I looked twice just to be sure. Yep, it was there.

I took the envelope and glanced at the address. Wait. That's not the correct P.O. box number. I wonder if it is meant for me.

I open it. Yes, it's meant for me.

The letter is short and obviously was quickly written. Name, address and phone number are given but not much more. The person lives in Ashland City. Ashland City? How the heck did he find out about my group? I don't think Dare is readily available to teenagers in Cheatham County.

It's 6:30 a.m. and I'm on my way to school and dying of curiosity. I can't call from school and have to go to work right after school. So I call from a pay phone later that evening when I get off work.

The computer-generated voice whines, "Please deposit a dollar and seventy cents for the first minute."

It rings twice. A damn answering machine!

I reach him a couple of days later at around 10 p.m. He says he can't talk right now. I obviously caught him at a bad time. I leave my number and he calls back in about an hour.

We talk for an hour and a half and decide to meet at the Krystal near where I work since he has a car and I don't.

Though I am almost positive he is sincere, I realize that he could be an adult or maybe even a homophobe setting me up.

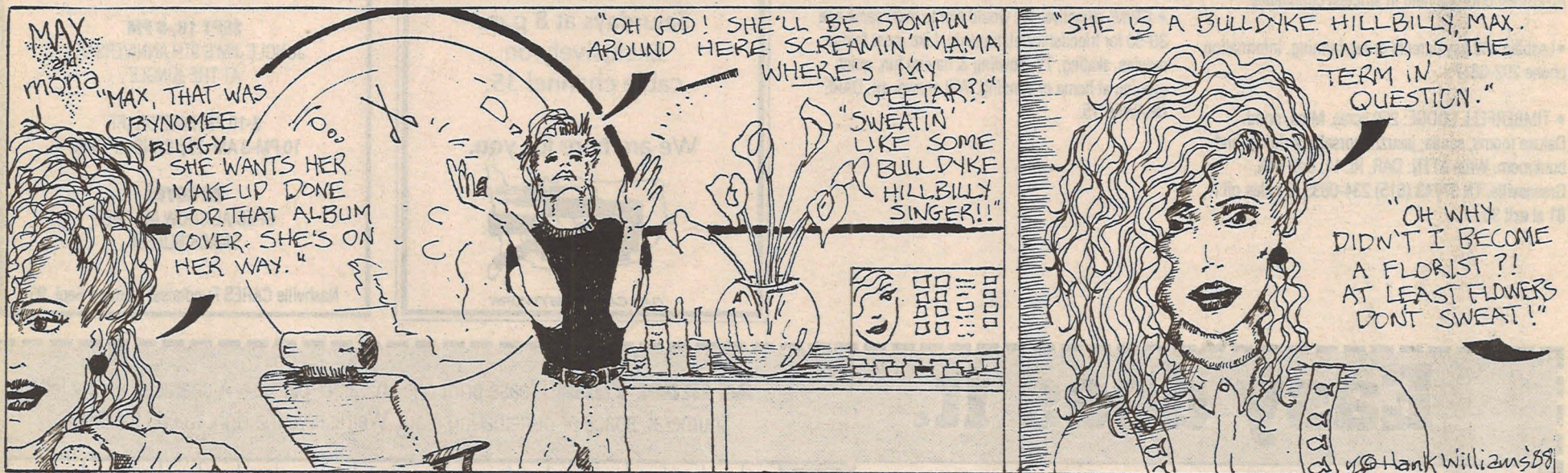
I meet him as planned. He is sincere - and 17.

The fact that neither he nor I is a great conversationalist is obvious since we are sitting at Krystal with almost nothing to say to each other.

We finally decide to leave and drive around a little. We talk for a while. He is a good student and has a good personality. That's really all I can say about him due to the confidentiality I guaranteed him.

I guess we have a support group now. I suppose it can be called a group, now that there's two of us. Hopefully, by the time I write my next column, I will find some more letters in my post office box. •

## Max and Mona / Dykes to Watch Out For



## Notices

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 or exploitative ads will not be accepted.

No ad will be accepted without signature and 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:

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

**Dare**

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Nashville, TN 37204-0422

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

## Announcements

• Married and gay? Support group forming. 320-0288 or write MCC/MAGNET, 131 15th Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37203

• 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 292-0817.

• **TIMBERFELL LODGE:** 250 acres. Mtns, pond. Deluxe rooms, sauna, jacuzzi, horseback riding, and bunkroom. Write ATTN: DAR, Rt. 11, Box 94A, Greeneville, TN 37743 (615) 234-0833. 2 miles off I-81 at exit 36.

• Missed a Dare? Back issues mailed to you (except V1 #2 and V1 #4) Send \$1.50 with name and address to Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204

• New: business notes - a 1/32 page notice display ad at a special introductory rate. Let the community know you're there for pennies per reader. Ann Taylor, Dare Advertising Sales Coordinator, 352-5823.

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

## Real Estate

• Small 1BDR house, West End area. Great yard. For rent \$400 + utilities. 269-7552

## Roommates

• Roommate wanted. LG 3BR house off Woodlawn. Nice big yard. Prefer non-smoker. No pets. \$175 + 1/3 util. 383-5169.

## Personals

• LWF would like to correspond with other lesbians. Friendship/relationship. DARE DRAWER 17.

• Happy Birthday, P. Crumbcakes. 31's not so bad. Wait til 40. Your not-so-secret admirer, Sugar-booger.

• GWM, attractive, 43, would like to meet same age 30-50 for friendship/relationship. Like most things, movies, skating, TV, bowling & having fun, quiet evening at home or dancing. Will answer all. DARE DRAWER 15.

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Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am the person named above. (No ad will be accepted without signature.)

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

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

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

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Ads received by noon Wednesday will run the following Friday.

\$10

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