

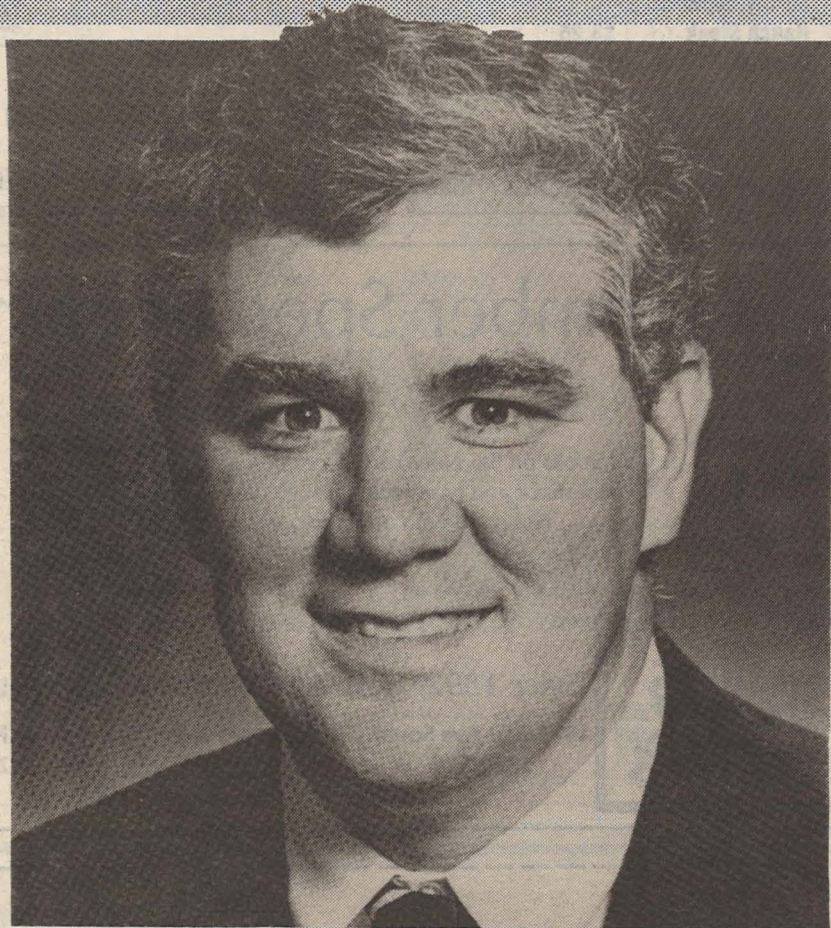
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VOLUME 1, NUMBER 27

THE LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 23-29, 1988



George Armistead, Metro Nashville Council Member-at-Large, has vowed to prevent Community Access Television from showing programming from the Gay Cable Network. Armistead said that anything other than heterosexual sex is "sick and demented."

Councilmember Armistead Vows to Stop Gay TV Show

Calls Homosexuals "Sick and Demented"

By **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

Metro Council at-large member George Armistead has vowed to halt the planned weekly airing of the Gay Cable Network on Nashville's Community Access Television (CAT) Channel 35.

Response to Armistead's remarks set off shock waves among local lesbian and gay leaders who termed the councilman's statements "homophobic" and "uneducated."

Armistead's reaction to the Gay Cable Network show - an hour-long magazine-type program - was reported in Thursday's *Tennessean*.

"We're gonna have a problem with this movie about queers," the published report quoted Armistead. "If it promotes any kind of abnormal sexual activity, I'm against it. Anything other than heterosexual behavior is demented and sick."

Penny Campbell, of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA), called Armistead's attack "the uneducated remarks of a homophobe."

"Obviously the remarks are those of a homophobic and uneducated man. The fact

that he is a public official alarms me and this shows the necessity of this type of programming in order to better educate the public and show them who we really are," Campbell said. "The gay and lesbian community should thank Diane Easter and Krys Krakowiak for their efforts in bringing GCN to Nashville."

The unmarried Armistead, unavailable for comment at press time, vowed to take the matter before the Metro Council, with published reports saying he would seek to change the station's charter if the show is aired.

Gay Cable Network will premiere on CAT Channel 35 Saturday at 8 p.m., according to Easter, one of the local coordinators.

Calls of protest to CAT headquarters, however, were very few and far between according to director of community relations Dixie Aubrey.

"As of this morning (Thursday), we've only received one phone call from a citizen who is against the broadcast," Aubrey said. "That does not indicate a groundswell of anti-gay sentiment."

Aubrey said Armistead's reaction to the program was unexpected and does not reflect **continued on page 5**

CDC Predicts Fivefold Increase in AIDS Cases by 1992

By **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

There will be an estimated 365,000 cases of AIDS in this country by 1992, according to a report issued last week by the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control.

That figure represents a five-fold increase in the number of AIDS cases in the U.S. As of last week, some 72,766 AIDS cases had been reported to the CDC; of that number, 41,064 patients, or 56%, are already dead.

In Tennessee, some 552 cases of AIDS had been reported as of August 31, according to G. Scott Osten, director of education for Nashville CARES. Of that number, 313 deaths, 56% of all Tennessee cases, have resulted from AIDS.

According to the CDC report, by 1992 cases reported will hit the 365,000 mark with deaths totaling 263,000 or 82%. In Tennessee, reported cases are expected to exceed 2,600.

Predictions of increasing numbers of cases signal a need for more widespread AIDS education, Osten said.

"Education is one of the few institutional tools we have at our disposal as far as prevention goes," Osten said. "We will continue the basics and will be reaching out to communities outside the gay community — the heterosex-

ual community, intravenous drug users, minorities."

Osten pointed to the fact that, among the gay population, the percentage of new AIDS cases appears to be dropping, perhaps as a result of education and awareness.

The CDC's predictions for 1992 came in its latest quarterly report on AIDS to the White House's Domestic Policy Council. In a report issued in 1986, the CDC predicted some 270,000 reported cases by 1991.

However, actual reporting of AIDS cases has run somewhat higher than predictions. The CDC predicted 15,800 cases for 1986 and 23,000 in 1987; actual totals showed 17,100 in 1986 and 25,200 in 1987.

The 172,000 people living with AIDS in 1992 will require medical care at a cost of anywhere from \$5 billion to \$13 billion.

An estimated one million to 1.5 million persons are believed to be infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), thought to be the cause of AIDS. Although that estimate has been criticized as being too low by some officials, the CDC sticks to its estimate based on a mathematical analysis by experts empaneled by the CDC in April. •

Circle K Backs Down from Controversial Health Care Policy

By **DEBORAH BURKS**
Staff Writer

Circle K corporation announced last Friday that it has dropped a controversial plan which denied, based on "lifestyle decisions," health care coverage to certain employees, such as people with AIDS and those who suffer from drug and alcohol abuse.

In a memorandum to employees, Circle K president Robert Reade stated, "Effective immediately, we have cancelled implementation of these specific limitations due to widespread misunderstanding of both the intent and the specifics of the changes."

This decision comes after a month-long review of the policy by the management of Circle K, the nation's second largest convenience store chain. The plan, which took effect in January, was presented by the company as a money-saving effort. The policy did not receive widespread attention until August when it became the focus of complaints and demonstrations by civil libertarians and AIDS activists. On August 10, Circle K suspended the policy for review.

"The company's decision makes good business sense," said Robert Bray of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF). "We com-

mend Circle K for concluding not to discriminate against people with AIDS and other employees with drug and alcohol abuse problems."

Bray, who has been involved in the efforts to have Circle K reconsider its health care plan, believes that the company's decision to drop the discriminatory policy resulted from a **continued on page 5**

INSIDE

Sherre Dryden looks at lesbians in Paris,
page 6.

Dan Quayle: Haven't we heard this before?
Jeff Ellis' analysis,
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. Divinity Room G 23. 5:30pm. Info phone 298-9931.

Al-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

Friday, September 23

Forging a New Foreign Policy for the '90s

Conference, featuring U.S. Rep. Ron Dellums. Sponsored by Fisk University and the Nashville Peace Alliance. Friday sessions free, Saturday sessions \$10 (\$5 limit income and students). Child care available. Fisk University. Info phone 327-1840.

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.

The Hotel Josephine!

Musical comedy about "Mardi Gras in gay New Orleans." Sponsored by Metropolitan Community Church, Huntsville. Von Braun Civic Center Playhouse. 7:30 pm. \$6 donation requested. Info phone (215) 539-4235.

Saturday, October 1

Super Saturday

Voter registration push. Project Vote and Nashville Voters Coalition. Edgehill United Methodist Church, 1502 Edgehill Ave. 9:30am-3:30pm. Free. Info phone 244-4353.

Monday, October 3

Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance

(T-GALA) Meeting, Towne House Tea Room. 7pm. Free.

Sunday, October 9

Feminist Book Circle Meeting. Discussion of *Over the Hill: Reflections on Ageism Between Women*, by Baba Cooper. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd. 5-7pm. Free. Info phone 298-9931.

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Sherre Dryden

Entertainment Editor

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Nashville Women "Take Back the Night"

By **DEBORAH BURKS**
Staff Writer

Approximately 250 people participated last Saturday in Nashville's "Take Back the Night" march and rally, an event intended to focus attention on the prevalence of rape and violence against women.

The candlelight marches originated at two sites, 9th and Broadway and the Metro Employee's Parking Lot at the foot of the Woodland Street bridge.

Participating in the 9th and Broadway procession was a sizable contingent marching under the banner, "Nashville Lesbians Take Back the Night." That march continued down Broadway and merged with the other wing of the march at Riverfront Park, site of the evening's rally.

As darkness descended upon the Cumberland River, the rally opened with music by Marianne Osiel and Kat Graham. Billy Fields presented a proclamation from Nashville Mayor Bill Boner declaring September as

"Domestic Violence and Rape Awareness Month." Keynoting the rally was Council member Pat Frye who related her own experiences with domestic violence.

An unidentified rape survivor retold the horror of her experience: "I'm here tonight to tell my story in hopes that this will never have to happen to anyone again."

Lynne Cushing, an organizer of the event, termed the evening a success.

"I feel very positively about 'Take Back the Night.' We expected 150 people and we got a much better crowd than that," Cushing said.

Commenting on the evening's impact, Cushing said, "I hope the survivors in the audience were empowered by being here. I also hope that people who attended will do something to encourage public officials to increase police protection and to provide women and children with the help they need in dealing with problems of rape and domestic violence." •



Jean O'Leary

Openly Lesbian Attorney O'Leary Appointed to DNC by Dukakis

From **STAFF REPORTS**

Lesbian activist Jean O'Leary was appointed by Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis in July as an at-large member of the Democratic National Committee.

O'Leary's appointment marks the first time in party history that an open lesbian has been made a member of the governing body of the national Democratic Party.

"I am proud to have received this appointment. This is another example of the commitment Mike Dukakis continues to demonstrate on behalf of our community," O'Leary said.

She termed her appointment to the DNC as "consistent with Dukakis' support of positive AIDS policies and civil rights for lesbians and gay men."

O'Leary added that her appointment "highlights the difference" between Dukakis and the Reagan administration "that has turned its back on the gay community for eight years."

O'Leary's comments were echoed by Boston attorney Vin McCarthy, a member of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

"The appointment of Jean O'Leary confirms that Gov. Dukakis will have gay men and

lesbians as a part of his team," McCarthy said.

For the past seven years O'Leary has been executive director of National Gay Rights Advocates, a non-profit, impact litigation firm, committed to promoting civil rights for lesbians and gay men.

"Mike Dukakis has said that gay men and lesbians would have more than just a foot in the door and would participate in policy making. Jean O'Leary is the kind of caring and qualified person that Dukakis hopes to attract to public service," said Tim McNeill, associate director of issues for the Dukakis campaign.

A 17 year veteran of Democratic Party politics, O'Leary most recently served as a Dukakis whip at July's Democratic National Convention in Atlanta.

During the Jimmy Carter administration, O'Leary was instrumental in organizing the first and only meeting of gay and lesbian leaders held in the White House. That meeting was followed by a series of meetings that changed policy regarding lesbians and gay men with key federal agencies, including the State Department, the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. •

Listings

Groups

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

Hedy Weinberg, Director
Box 120160, Nashville 37212
256-7028
Lesbian & Gay Anti-Violence Hotline
256-7028

Conductors

Box 40261, Nashville 37204

Feminist Book Circle

Box 120372, Nashville 37212
298-9931

Metropolitan Community Church

131 15th Av North, Nashville 37203
320-0288

Nashville CARES

Sandee Potter, Director
Box 25107, Nashville 37202
385-1510
AIDS Crisis Line
385-AIDS

Nashville Women's Alliance

Box 120834, Nashville 37212
366-0555

National Organization for Women (Tennessee NOW)

Elizabeth Jamison, President
Box 120523, Nashville 37212

Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA)

Box 24181, Nashville 37202

Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Task Force (TGLTF)

Box 24181, Nashville 37202

Tennesseans Keeping Abortion Legal and Safe (TKALS)

Box 120871, Nashville 37212
297-8540

Vanderbilt AIDS Project

Suite CCC5319 Medical Center North
Vanderbilt University, Nashville 37232
322-AIDS or 322-2252

Vanderbilt Lambda Association

Box 121743, Nashville 37212

Women's Resource Center (YWCA)

1608 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville
385-3952

Clubs

Allen Gold's

1100 McCallie Av, Chattanooga

Cabaret

1711 Hayes St, Nashville
320-7082

The Chute

2535 Franklin Rd, Nashville
297-4571

Chez Colette

407 1st Av South, Nashville
256-9134

The Gas Lite

167 1/2 8th Av North, Nashville
254-1278

Crazy Cowboy II

2311 Franklin Rd, Nashville
269-5318

Juanita's

1700 4th Av South, Nashville
256-9681

The Jungle

306 4th Av South, Nashville
256-9411

The Office

130 Franklin St, Clarksville
645-1157

Ralph's

515 2nd Av South, Nashville
256-9682

Tom's Place

1407 Market St, Chattanooga

Victor/Victoria's

111 8th Av North, Nashville
244-7256

Warehouse 28

2529 Franklin Rd, Nashville
385-9689

The World's End

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329-3480



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Nashville Women "Take Back the Night"

By **DEBORAH BURKS**
Staff Writer

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Commenting on the evening's impact, Cushing said, "I hope the survivors in the audience were empowered by being here. I also hope that people who attended will do something to encourage public officials to increase police protection and to provide women and children with the help they need in dealing with problems of rape and domestic violence." •

...Armistead: "Sick and demented"

continued from page 1

local sentiment.

"I think the statements made by Mr. Armistead are not indicative of the way most people Nashville feel. There is a very broad spectrum of opinion in the community and I think Mr. Armistead represents the farthest end of the spectrum," she said.

Station manager Elliott Mitchell, quoted in the Tennessean, said if viewers call to protest the show, his response will be a routine one: "I'll tell them that there's more time on the channel, and they can come in and try to convince people it's not acceptable."

"Most people understand the first amend-

ment and they understand we're doing our job in presenting a diversity of ideas or opinions free from censorship," Aubrey said.

Armistead, who is yet to view the program, has said other Metro council members will share his outrage at the production's airing.

Aubrey disagreed: "Metro council members, while representing large numbers of people, are still individuals with their own ideas. I believe Mr. Armistead would agree that he doesn't speak for the entire council."

The show's premiere will be marked with a champagne buffet at Warehouse 28, 2529 Franklin Road, Easter said. •

...Circle K backs down

continued from page 1

combination of the pressure applied to Circle K by the media and the impact of demonstrations and boycotts around the country.

"The media coverage helped to point out the absurdity of the policy and the demonstrations and boycotts informed potential customers about what was going on with Circle K," Bray said.

However, Ed Buck, the Phoenix activist who organized much of the movement to impeach former Arizona Gov. Evan Mecham, emphasized the importance of negotiations with Circle K executives in the company's recent decision.

"The impact we had on this decision was the result of responsible discussion with Circle K," Buck contended. "Gay organizations, particularly Ben Schatz of the National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) and Robert Bray of HRCF, came to the front and effectively put pressure on the company to change its policy."

Buck, who personally met with Circle K representatives, said he explained to the company that the policy was illegal and if it was reinstated, legal action against them would ensue.

Buck believes the fate of Circle K's policy will influence other corporations that are considering implementation of health insurance plans which exclude coverage of people with AIDS.

"They are going to think two or three times about such policies," Buck said. "They know the gay community will be effective in opposing it."

Is the repeal of Circle K's policy a statement on the gay and lesbian rights movement? Bray thinks so.

"I think this outcome with Circle K is testimony to the power of the gay and lesbian movement in this country," Bray said. "We can respond quickly and effectively to a situation such as this." •

Straight talk about advertising to gay men and lesbians

"The finding that Frisch most likes to cite from Avanti's market study is that 80% of gay[s]... would be more likely to purchase products or services from companies if they maintain a presence in the gay media or some active involvement with the gay community." And if ads speak directly to the gay consumer, adds Frisch, so much the better. " - Sales & Marketing Management, 10/10/83

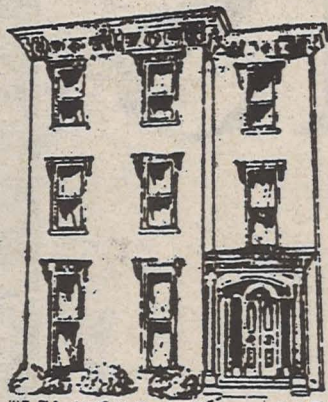
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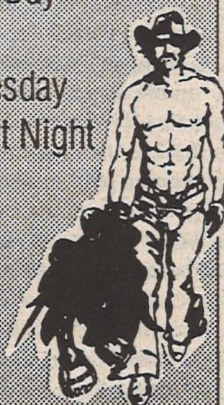
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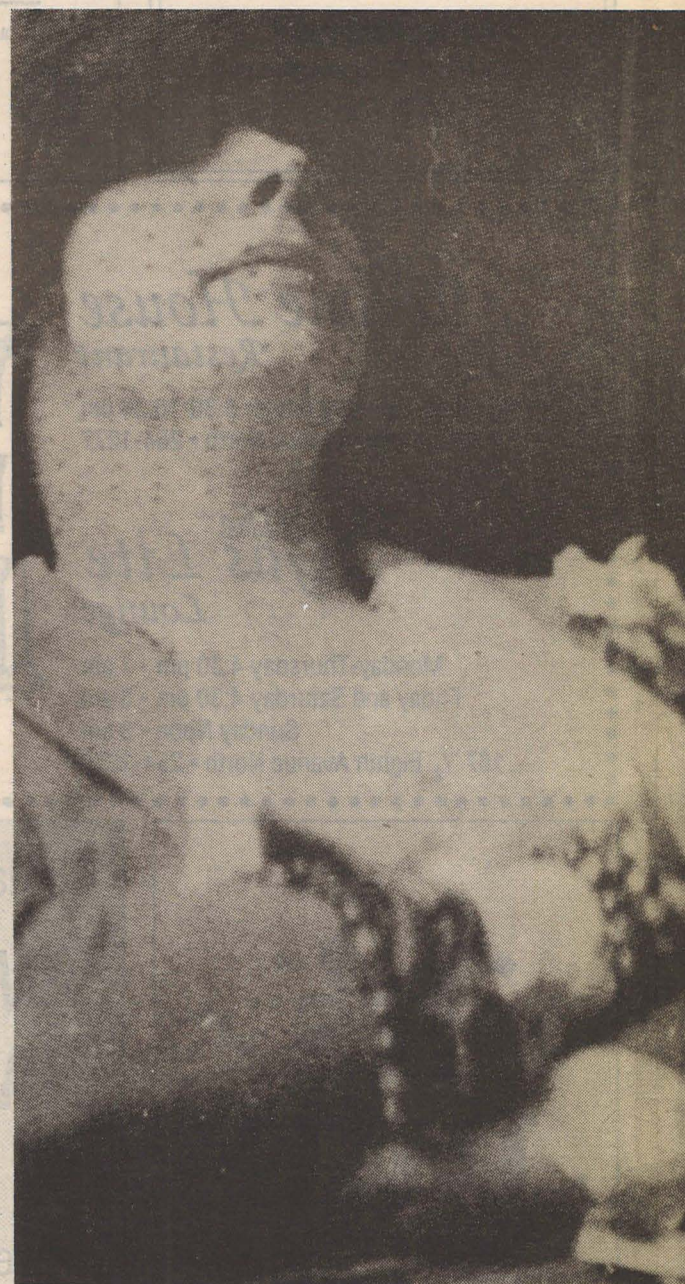
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Jim Seibold, PhD
Licensed Clinical Psychologist



By **SHERRE DRYDEN**
Entertainment Editor

From the end of World War I until just before the start of World War II, women — many of them Americans, most of them lesbians — went to Paris.

Living in Paris was cheap. There was considerable sexual freedom. There were bars and cafes for drinking and dancing and meeting friends. Beautiful and famous (or notorious) women held salons and parties. The city was gaining a reputation as a center for modern literature, art and music. As more women went there, surely Paris became known as a place where it was possible to work creatively within a community of women.

These women, and the community they constructed, have become symbols of our history as women and as lesbians. It is their names we list, their works we read and look at, their lives we think of when we need to know that someone was there before.

Some of the names are more familiar than others — Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas,

Natalie Barney, Renee Vivien, H.D., Colette and Radclyffe Hall. Others, just as important, may be less familiar: Djuna Barnes, Romaine Brooks, Sylvia Beach, Janet Flanner, Margaret Anderson, Jane Heap. They all knew each other, were one another's friends and lovers and enemies (sometimes all three); without their work and influence modern western literature and the arts would be vastly different.

Although many of the women had other things in common — education, family wealth, religion — what brought them together was sexual orientation. And two of them, Gertrude Stein and Natalie Barney, have come to represent lesbianism to all the world.

Their lives were very different.

Natalie Barney's place in history has been based almost exclusively on her sexual orientation. She dedicated her life to revising the image of lesbianism as inversion, illness, perversion, paranoia. This image was held not only by heterosexual society, but by lesbians as well.

Natalie objected to any mode of behavior that

Like most farces, *Blue Heaven* is all plot and no obvious theme. But also like most farces, the crisis in the plot is based on a certain social imbalance in the way things are.

In this farce, Joe Margolis first novel, a gay man and a money woman decide to get married. Their motive is fairly materialistic. They want the lavish wedding presents their wealthy relatives will give them.

In the process, Gilbert and Moini must deal with a variety of problems that are not unusual for normal couples but become special when the relationship is so decidedly artificial. How to handle husbandly jealousy, for instance. He suspects she's being unfaithful to him and is infuriated and angry, partly because she could be his rival and partly because he feels deprived of the thrill of infidelity for himself.

What is on the surface a frothy comedy of manners may then also be viewed as a serious deconstruction of social mores. (The plays of Oscar Wilde are evidence of this in the highest form.) *Blue Heaven*, with its far-fetched plot, complications and equally far-fetched solutions, manages also to uncover some pretty significant imbalances in the American family.

For the odd couple in the novel, money may, finally, be the property family and the male gender role distinction become necessary to ensure the success of their scheme, hardly moral considerations at all.

This allowed them their putatively ethical premises, though, the elements of the so-called traditional family appear materialistic and oppressive in their function. The frankly unusual marriage in the novel tends to underline a certain interest in general, revealing a certain artificiality as its center.

Like in the novel, the gay characters find

even homophobia to be a useful tool for him as he attempts to divert attention from himself and safeguard the plot by the end of the novel, the institution of marriage has been tested, along with a number of other bonded institutions.

Take, for instance, Christmas. That most revered and elevated family-oriented holiday in novelist Joe Margolis's hands, Christmas provides a grand opportunity not only to expose the self-unhappiness of the holiday - the materialism and commercialism - Christmas season celebrates in the middle of the book, a celebration climaxes with the second capitulation of the Three Wise Men to a plastic Jesus in a nativity scene. Margolis encapsulates the book's cynical words Christmas, marriage and various icons of American romanticism and "decency."

Like that, *Blue Heaven* is overly deconstructed. In fact, readers of this novel may find my reading of the text so gratuitous. After all, one does not read to find serious social criticism in some farces as *Blue Heaven* or for that matter, farces. Nevertheless, one does find whether one expects it there or not. *Blue Heaven* is one of the funniest while to blow up a sacred cow. The sense of fun and play dominates the novel, but entirely eclipsing the satire. The situation is milks for every possible pun and there are quite a few. And even repetitive voice of camp fills the book, as it does eventually, the book's reader interest in the events of the novel lives of the unusually vulgar and de-



seemed to validate the "scientific" theories of lesbianism dominant in her time, particularly the idea that lesbians were really men trapped in women's bodies. She objected to cross-dressing, preferring instead long hair and flowing gowns. Her salon in the heart of the Faubourg Saint-Germain became an institution, attracting everyone who was anyone on the Paris literary scene.

Both Natalie's mother, Alice Pike Barney, and her father, Albert Clifford Barney, had inherited considerable wealth, leaving them free to lead a fashionable social life. Natalie's first years were spent in Cincinnati and Washington, D.C. with summers in Bar Harbor and Europe. She and her sister Laura had a French governess and were sent to boarding school in Fontainebleau.

Later there was a German-speaking governess, education at Miss Ely's School for girls in New York, a European tour and seven months in Germany learning fencing, dancing and violin. By the age of 18 Natalie had completed a proper young lady's education.

Natalie elected to spend the rest of her life in Paris, calling it the only city where one could live and express oneself as one pleased. In 1901 Liane de Pougy published *Idylle Saphique* and Natalie's private life became suddenly very public. This thinly disguised autobiographical novel tells of the seduction of a bold, experienced courtesan (Liane) by a pretty American girl named Flossie (Natalie). It was hardly necessary for Liane to fictionalize Natalie's life to make it sensational enough to attract attention.

A second novel, *Une femme m'apparut* (1904) describes the passion of the author for the beautiful but cold Lorely. The author was Renée Vivien. Renée and Natalie had not only fallen in love but had begun to talk of forming a circle of women poets and living on Lesbos. When Renée died rumors held it to be caused by her unrequited love for Natalie.

Another of Natalie's conquests was Rémy de Gourmont, one of the leading French men of letters. His letters to Natalie were published after his death as *Lettres intimes à l'Amazone*

(1926). An earlier book, *Lettres à l'Amazone* (1914) was a collection of essays, in the form of letters from Rémy to Natalie, based on their conversations. *Lettres à l'Amazone* appeared regularly in a French literary magazine from 1912 to 1913, making Natalie famous almost overnight.

In 1909 Natalie moved to the house on the rue Jacob, where she began her salon. By the time World War I was over Natalie and her salon had a firmly established place in Paris literary life.

In 1927 she organized a series of meetings featuring women writers, the Académie des Femmes. Gertrude Stein was celebrated in one of these programs, the beginning of the friendship between the two that would last until Gertrude's death.

Other lifelong friends were Romaine Brooks, the Duchess de Clermont-Tonnerre and Dolly Wilde, all also former lovers. For Natalie, passion seemed brief but friendship endured — which did not mean abandoning love affairs as she grew older.

Pensées d'une Amazone set forth for the world to read her views on Sapphic love and she became "l'imperatrice des lesbiennes." Two novels of the period, Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness* and Djuna Barnes' *Ladies Almanack* clearly present Natalie as the Amazon of the Amazons. *Ladies Almanack* is a bawdy spoof of some of the better-known lesbians of Paris, gathered at the home of heroine Evangeline Musset.

A volume of Natalie's memoirs, *Souvenirs indiscrets*, is closer to autobiography than her other works. She recalls the literary history of her time with intimate sketches of the women who played major roles in her life: Renée Vivien, the Duchess de Clermont-Tonnerre, Collette and Lucie Delaure-Mardrus (who wrote passionate love poetry to Natalie).

When war broke out in 1939 Natalie stayed on. And after the war she tried to rejuvenate her salon, but the new literary lights found her old fashioned. She lived until 1972 but with the end of World War II her era had passed. •

Pages

Blue Heaven

Blue Heaven. Joe Keenan. NY: Penguin, 1988.

By **JOE MAROHL**
Staff Writer

Like most farces, *Blue Heaven* is all plot and no obvious theme. But also like most farces, the crisis in the plot is based on a certain actual imbalance in The Way Things Are.

In *Blue Heaven*, Joe Keenan's first novel, a gay man and a nongay woman decide to get married. Their motive is frankly materialistic. They want the lavish wedding presents their wealthy relatives will give them.

In the process, Gilbert and Moira must deal with a variety of problems that are not unusual for normal couples but become special when the relationship is so decidedly artificial. How to handle husbandly jealousy, for instance. He suspects she's being unfaithful to him and is hurt and angry, partly because she could bollix the entire scheme and partly because he feels deprived of the thrill of infidelity for himself.

What is on the surface a frothy comedy of manners may then also be viewed as a serious deconstruction of social mores. (The plays of Oscar Wilde are evidence of this in the highest form.) *Blue Heaven*, with its far-fetched plot complications and equally far-fetched solutions, manages also to uncover some pretty significant imbalances in the American family.

For the odd couple in the novel, monogamy, fidelity, the proprietary family and definite gender role distinctions become necessary ruses to ensure the success of their scheme, hardly moral considerations at all.

Thus alienated from their putatively ethical premises, though, the elements of the so-called traditional family appear materialistic and oppressive in their function. The frankly unnatural marriage in the novel tends to undercut marriage in general, revealing a certain artificiality at its center.

Late in the novel, the gay protagonist finds

even homophobia to be a useful tool for him as he attempts to divert attention from himself and safeguard the plot. By the end of the novel, the institution of marriage has been trashed, along with a number of other honored institutions.

Take, for instance, Christmas. That most revered and elevated family-oriented holiday. In novelist Joe Keenan's hands, Christmas provides a grand opportunity not only to take pot shots at the extended family but also to expose the soft underbelly of the holiday itself - the materialism and commerciality that the Christmas season celebrates in the most cloyingly sentimental terms.

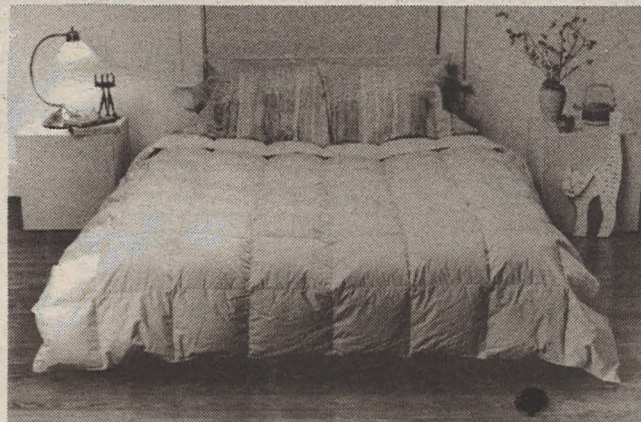
In the middle of the book, a Christmas celebration climaxes with the accidental decapitation of the Three Wise Men bearing gifts to a plastic Jesus in a nativity scene. The incident encapsulates the book's cynicism towards Christmas, marriage and various other icons of American romanticism and normal "decency."

Not that *Blue Heaven* is overtly didactic or political. In fact, readers of this comic novel may find my reading of the text somewhat gratuitous. After all, one does not really expect to find serious social criticism in something as fatuous as *Blue Heaven* - or, for that matter, the considerably less fatuous *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Nevertheless, one does see it there whether one expects it there or not.

Blue Heaven is one of the funniest books in a while to blow up a sacred cow. The novel's sense of fun and play dominates the plot, all but entirely eclipsing the satire. The bizarre situation is milked for every possible laugh, and there are quite a few. And even as the repetitive volley of campy fallal begins to turn brittle, as it does eventually, the book sustains reader interest in the events of the story and the lives of the unusually vulgar and despicable characters. •



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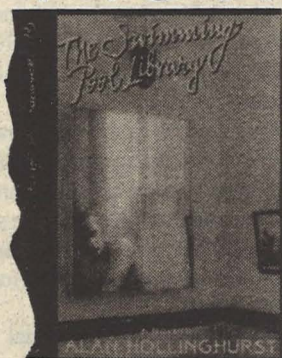
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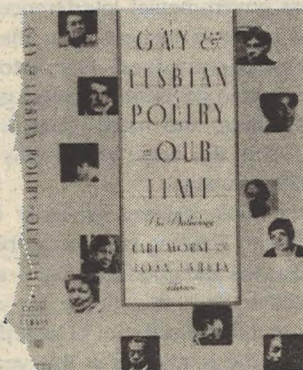
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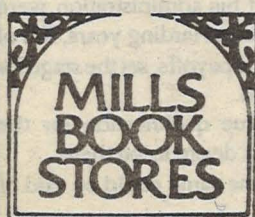
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Channels

Gay Cable Network: Better than Nothing

By JEFF ELLIS
 Managing Editor

When the Gay Cable Network/Nashville premieres Saturday, viewers will see an uneven program made up primarily of news from the New York area with a few reports from other locations across the country.

GCN/Nashville, aimed at the growing lesbian/gay community in Music City, will air weekly on Viacom's community-access Channel 35 from 8 to 9 p.m. each Saturday.

A preview of the initial Nashville cablecast, held for members of the press Wednesday, gave a good indication of what will be seen by viewers in the weeks ahead.

And what will you see? Too many segments focusing on the Big Apple. Certainly, that is to be expected, since GCN is headquartered in New York City, but how will it play in the heartland? The first episode shown here opens with a news analysis segment with moderator Alan Humm and three guests — Alan Dee, Rebecca Lewen and Phil Zwickler — for a discussion of a proposed anti-bias bill currently being considered by the New York legislature.

The bill's future could have far-reaching ramifications and that segment is interesting, as was a taped Mario Cuomo speech on anti-gay violence. But the Cuomo "bite" was much too long and the subsequent discussion of New York street children — many of whom are lesbian or gay — will be of little interest to Nashville audiences, due to the lack of background given for the story.

Technically, the camerawork was rudimentary and amateurish.

"Lavender health," the title of another segment, is fairly self-explanatory. This week's topic is concerned with how lesbians can become better health care consumers.

A segment on the New York chapter of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) was far too localized to New York to engender much interest locally.

The Right Stuff, a sort of gay Entertainment Tonight, was probably, except for a couple of clever commercials and public service announcements, the most entertaining segment of the show with hosts Laura Lucas and Mitch Starr. The best part of the show was an appearance by Razor Sharp, a drag queen with a rapier wit who gives a scathing review of the recent Miss America pageant. She was fun!

Nashville audiences are likely to warm to the pair of Southern reports included in The Right Stuff: a backstage look at the Mr. Hotlanta pageant and a report on New Orleans' gay Mardi Gras celebration.

Getting the local audience's attention appears to be the biggest obstacle GCN/Nashville must overcome.

Of course, in time, local reports may air on the program. Until then, viewers must work to find something that catches their fancy in this uneven show.

The show's production values are a bit shabby and the show has too much of a homemade look.

Still, bringing GCN to middle Tennessee is a courageous undertaking and one that will no doubt be appreciated by our community. •

Screens

A Month in the Country

By JEFF ELLIS
 Managing Editor

A Month in the Country, Pat O'Connor's new film set in 1919 England, is a beautiful, lush and lyrical production with an intimate focus on the emotional restraint and repression of the British people.

Set in the aftermath of World War I, "The Great War" as it was known to those who survived its horrors, *A Month in the Country* tells the story of Mr. Birkin (played by Colin Firth), an art historian and restorer suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), who ventures to the Yorkshire village of Oxbodby to restore a painted-over fifteenth century mural in a tiny chapel.

We first meet Birkin in the midst of a hellish nightmare of war, ravaged by its unending symphony of gunfire and anguished cries of impending death. The scene is a disturbing one.

Most of us, perhaps only vaguely aware of the first World War, are almost surprised by the notion that its survivors were traumatized by their battlefield exploits. Rather, we imagine those soldiers almost as the toy counterparts we played with as children. The harsh reality of their experiences is much different than play and as emotionally draining as Vietnam.

Joining Birkin in Oxbodby is James Moon (Kenneth Branagh in an especially affecting performance), an archaeologist looking for the remains of a nobleman — whose descen-

dants are financing the mural's restoration as well as Moon's search for the bones. Like Birkin, Moon is a veteran of the war in France, a decorated hero who spent his last six months of duty in a guardhouse "for bugging his corporal." Moon, like Birkin, is haunted by his memory of war and of homophobia.

Watching Birkin and Moon's endeavors from the periphery are the Rev. J.G. Keach (Patrick Malahide) and his wife Alice (Natasha Richardson, the daughter of Vanessa Redgrave — the family resemblance is obvious in Richardson's looks and in her talents). Keach does not welcome Birkin's restoration, fearing the mural will detract from his sermons.

Alice, however, is quick to discover in Birkin a kindred spirit.

As Birkin's painstaking work on the mural begins to become evident, he begins to lose the stutter and tic which have plagued him since war's end. The nightmares cease and Birkin appears to have exorcised the demons that he brought back from the front.

A Month in the Country is an exquisite film; the scenes of the English countryside are breathtaking and transport the film-goer to an earlier time. The casting is exceptional, from the four leads to the characters who people the village of Oxbodby.

Unlike many films in wide release today, *A Month in the Country* is not full of action sequences. It is, however, filled with all the human emotions of life. •

Dare

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From the Heart of the American South

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The *Dare* logotype was designed by
Rusel Brown.

Dare copy is set in Garamond, with
Aachen Bold heads and Helvetica
Condensed Light subheads.

Dare is published weekly by
Pyramid Light & Power, Box 40422,
Nashville, TN 37204-0422, (615) 292-9623.
Subscription rate: \$31.20 per year.
Please phone (615) 352-5823 for ad rates.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422.

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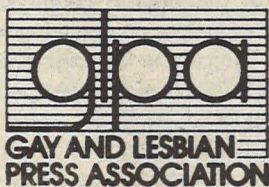
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Views

Republican History Repeats Itself

By JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

On that hot August day in New Orleans when Republican presidential nominee George Bush tapped Indiana Senator Dan Quayle as his running mate, political pundits nationwide were caught unawares by the selection.

Within hours controversy and threats of scandal began to swirl around Quayle as more was learned about the man behind the "Robert Redford smile."

And what we learned was not exactly from the Party-approved script.

But this is not the first time a Republican nominee for national office has come under fire for a seeming lack of political expertise and experience. We need only look at the Republican ticket of 1920 headed by Warren G. Harding — termed by many historians as this century's least effective president — to find a candidate who seems to have possessed many of the same attributes now associated with Dan Quayle.

The scion of a wealthy Indiana publishing empire, Quayle's privileged upbringing was reported in newspapers from Bangor to Seattle following his nomination for vice president.

Groomed to be a newspaper editor, J. Danforth Quayle, found himself in the '70s being handpicked instead for a career in politics. It was at that time that a group of well-heeled Indiana Republicans met to choose a candidate for a congressional race — and the wealthy, good looking Quayle was the man for the job.

The Ohio-born Harding, known to many as a "small town sport and womanizer," was an all-too-common man singled out by fate for duties for which he was ill-suited. It was his marriage to the wealthy and politically well-connected Florence King that precipitated the rise of the newspaper editor's political fortunes.

Following a defeat in the 1910 Ohio governor's race, Harding rebounded and won a term in the United States Senate in 1912. But he enjoyed being in the Senate much more than being a Senator — he appeared for only one-third of the Senate's votes. When, in 1920, Republican leaders sought a compromise candidate for their presidential nominee, the wealthy, good-looking Harding was the man for the job.

The similarities between 1988's Dan Quayle and 1920's Warren G. Harding don't begin, or end, with their midwestern roots, newspaper backgrounds and personal fortunes.

Quayle's reluctance to release his academic record — an immensely telling document — has come under fire from journalists and Democrats alike. Quayle's lackluster career as a student is the probable cause for his refusal to allow his grades to be seen.

At Quayle's alma mater, DePauw University, every student is required to take an examination in her or his major field of study. Very few students fail the test. Dan Quayle did. He was given another chance to take the test and passed on his second try. Perhaps that is why one of his professors remembered him as a "vapid" young man.

Questions about the use of his family's influence to gain entrance to the Indiana University School of Law also have surfaced. Just prior

to his acceptance at the school — despite his failure to meet academic requirements — his family made a large financial contribution to the University.

The possible influence of his family, or friends of the family on Quayle's behalf, in order to ensure his acceptance into the Indiana National Guard has been discussed widely in the press. It was his National Guard service that stirred the first winds of a controversial political storm around the Republican vice presidential nominee.

Considered by many of his Senate colleagues as a "political lightweight," Quayle won his seat in a hard-fought campaign of mudslinging directed at incumbent Democratic Senator Birch Bayh in 1980.

Quayle accused Bayh of "promoting homosexuality, sex education for elementary school students" and "federal control of all youth camps and conference grounds," according to a report in the San Diego *Gay Times* which quoted a Quayle brochure from that 1980 campaign.

Quayle defeated Bayh, a 20-year Senate veteran, by 167,000 votes brought to him largely by the efforts of the Moral Majority and one of its leaders, Terry Dolan, a closeted homosexual who died of AIDS in 1986.

Quayle's senate voting record indicates a definite bias against lesbian and gay concerns. He has voted against most, if not all, progressive AIDS legislation and AIDS-treatment funding. In fact, Quayle was one of only two Senators who voted against any Federal funding for AZT.

On a more personal level, Quayle has been called an "all-around good guy and womanizer" who reportedly spend a Florida weekend with Washington lobbyist-turned-Playboy model Paula Parkinson.

Quayle's Republican forebear Harding was haunted by scandal and hints of miscegenation throughout his public and private life.

Harding was "tainted" by the rumor that black blood flowed through his veins. The rather remote possibility of Harding having a black heritage, of interest only to the most bigoted of Ohio's voters, stemmed from the fact that there was, indeed, a black branch of the Harding family in Ohio.

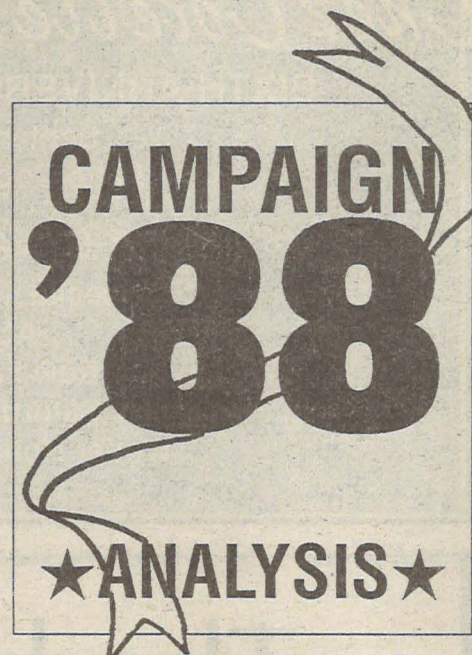
Following a long-term affair with the wife of a Marion, Ohio, merchant, Harding entered into another long term tryst with Nan Britton, who gave birth to his illegitimate child.

But the knowledge of his extramarital affairs and hints of miscegenation failed to derail the Harding political express from its appointed rounds. He was elected President in 1920 by a plurality of seven million votes over Democratic nominee James M. Cox.

"We're in the big leagues now," Harding told his cronies when news of his election came. But clearly, this was a man who was out of his league and out of his depth politically.

After his election Harding appointed what became known as the "Poker Cabinet" — a group of courthouse politicians and backroom wheeler-dealers who soon after their appointment were rife with scandal. Harding's name and his administration have become synonymous with corruption and scandal in government.

Harding, like Quayle, was not a stellar student, either academically or politically: "I can't



make a damn thing out of this tax problem. I listen to one side and they seem right and I listen to the other side and they seem right. I know there must be a book that could give me the truth, but hell, I couldn't read the book."

As for foreign affairs, Harding claimed, "I don't know anything about this European stuff." Rather, he deferred to the judgment of Judson Williver and Charles Evans Hughes (one of the few sound advisers in his cabinet) for foreign policy decisions.

Quayle, who claims to be well-read on foreign policy and defense issues, said recently that he bases much of his theories in those areas on a novel, *Red October*. He seems to lack a staff member with the judgment of Charles Evans Hughes to advise him on foreign policy and defense.

Throughout this year's presidential campaign, the Republican ticket has repeatedly called for less governmental interference in business and personal matters. That theme appears to be an old one in the GOP repertoire.

"What we want in government is less government in business and more business in government," was the basic philosophy of Harding's 1920 campaign.

Perhaps the most striking similarity between Quayle and Harding is physical: both are described as tall and good looking — and in their respective times, they fit the description of what a public official should look like.

According to the scuttlebutt at this year's Republican convention, Quayle was selected not only for his political acumen but for his ability to "close the gender gap" with his charm and good looks.

It is interesting to note that Harding — "presidential- and dignified-looking" — was also chosen for his supposed ability to woo women voters.

The presidential election of 1920 was the first in which women were given the opportunity to cast ballots and their preference for Harding was instrumental in bringing him victory.

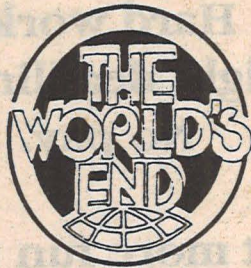
At his death, Harding was mourned as a good man, but as the 1920s drew to a close, the true ramifications of his administration were felt. The scandal-ridden Harding years, full of cronyism and political payoffs, set the stage for the Great Depression.

Harding's only true qualification for the White House was his desire to be there.

It would appear the same could be said of Dan Quayle. •

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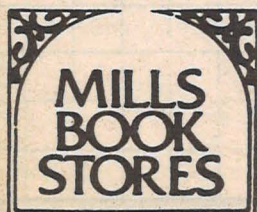
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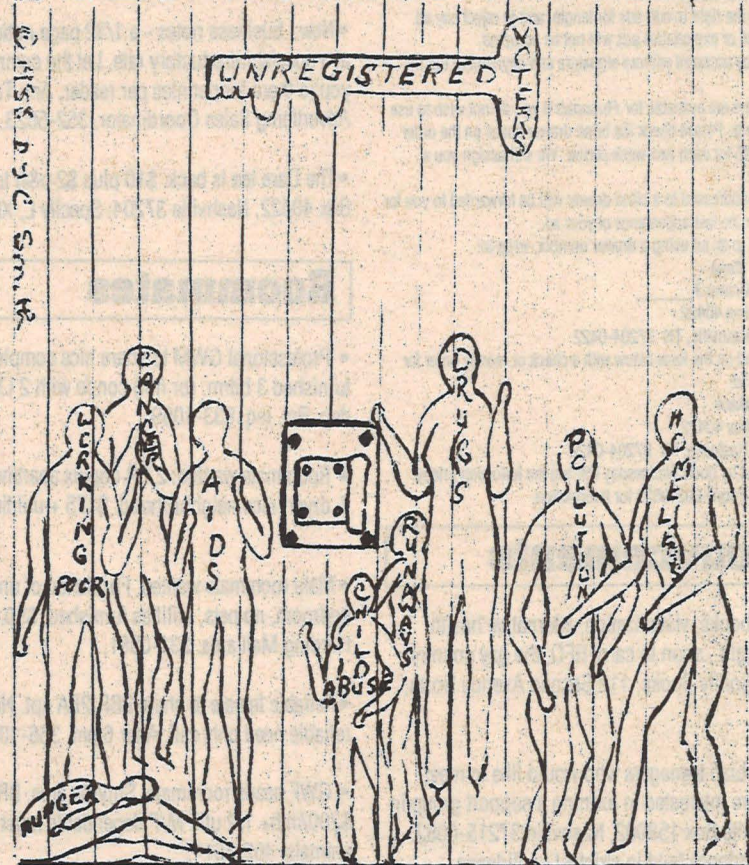
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One in Teen

Teens, Sex and Morals

"One in Teen" is written by a gay 17-year-old who lives and goes to high school in Nashville. Because he is a minor, he writes under a pseudonym. —Editor

By **PATRICK HILLS**
Contributor

Hi! I was having a hard time deciding what to write about today, so I asked a couple of teachers for suggestions.

First, I asked my art teacher. "What!" she says as she jumps back from shock. She does not have any good ideas.

Next I ask a teacher I had two years ago and already knows I'm gay. She thinks for a few seconds. "How about sexual morals of gay teenagers?"

I thought, "Well, this'll be a hot topic." Pun intended.

As you already know, during adolescence, people are developing sexually and becoming curious about sex. For us lesbian and gay teenagers, of course, this is torture since we usually don't have anyone to share these feelings with. Since many lesbian and gay teens are isolated from other lesbian and gay teens, some choose to go to gay bars.

For example, a teenager who is gay might go to one of the local gay bars and leave with an older man.

I, personally, would feel very uncomfort-

able about doing this, because you do not know enough about this older man to get sexually involved with him. Also, it is likely that you, the gay teenager, would not see this guy again. For me, that would be extremely difficult to deal with. However, for some it might not.

As for me, I guess you could say I'm a hopeless romantic! However, I won't lie and say I have never fallen into a relationship of sex and no love. I did, and I did not like it.

My goal is to meet that someone where something just "clicks" and a relationship is gradually developed. Love first, sex later, is my philosophy. I think it would be so romantic to have a boyfriend with whom I can enjoy doing different things such as riding bikes or just talking.

Of course, this is all just my feeling, but I do think that lesbian and gay teens should avoid sex with people who they do not know very well.

As you may have noticed, this is mostly directed toward gay teens and not lesbian teens. This is true because, being a gay male, I do not know enough about what lesbian teens go through in this area to write about it.

Well, that's about it for today. Catch me again in two weeks. •

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:

Dare

Drawer # _____

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Nashville, TN 37204-0422

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

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Box 40422

Nashville, TN 37204-0422

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

Announcements

• Goddess books, visualization, alternative health, Eastern thought...soon to carry RFD, the gay country journal. Dragonfly Books, 112 Second Avenue North, 242-1250.

• 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.

• Same-sex couples needed. Friends, lovers, comrades for direct action at Marriage Bureau, Howard School. Tuesday, Oct. 11. For info call Penny 297-4293 or Gary 889-2665.

• 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.

Roommates

• Professional GWM to share nice completely furnished 3 bdrm. (or not) condo with 2 LWF. Small dep. Ref. req. 833-1059

• Roommate wanted: 2 BR duplex apartment, washer & dryer, nice neighborhood. \$175 + utilities. 832-2260

• Male roommate wanted. Furnished or unfurnished bedroom, no pets, utilities furnished. \$50.00 a week, Harding Mall area. 331-0381.

• Reliable female to share 2BR/2BA apt. Honest and reliable need only call. After 6 pm. 366-1041.

• GWF needs roommate. Smyrna area. BR and Bath \$200/mth+ 1/2 util. M/F dependable must like animals. 459-7614.

Personals

• Young lesbian couple, new in town, looking to meet other lesbians. We enjoy camping, movies and dining. DARE DRAWER 18.

• Romantic GWM Blnd/Grn, 5'2" seeks a kindred GWM satyr for lasting relationship. Prefer masculine w/ mustache. Beard is a plus. Only serious need reply. Tired of the single scene? Then write. DARE DRAWER 19.

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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 \$ _____

+ blind drawer charge \$ 5.00

+ BOLD CAPS charge \$ 5.00

= Subtotal \$ _____

x number of two-week periods _____

Total cost \$ _____

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\$20

\$30