



# Dare

free!

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 32

THE GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 28–NOVEMBER 4, 1988

## Homosexual Acts May Be Reduced to Misdemeanor

By **JEFF ELLIS**  
*Managing Editor*

Proposed revisions in the Tennessee Criminal Code which would specifically ban homosexual acts and would reduce such "crimes" from a felony to a Class C misdemeanor will likely be considered by both houses of the state legislature when they reconvene in January.

Sue B. Cain, executive director of the Tennessee Sentencing Commission, said the proposed changes in the criminal code have been filed with the Judiciary committees in both the state senate and house of representatives.

A subcommittee of the Commission, after two and a half years of deliberation, last month directed its proposals to the legislature. The commission, according to subcommittee chair David Raybin, was simply following the mandate of state lawmakers to "modernize [the] archaic language" that now exists in the criminal code.

Under the Commission's proposals, the state's crimes against nature statute would be rewritten to eliminate language regarding heterosexual acts but would specifically criminalize all sexual acts between two persons of the same sex.

"The revision would eliminate crimes against nature, but it does leave homosexual sex acts as a crime," Cain said.

Since the crimes against nature statute has rarely been invoked against heterosexuals, the subcommittee members said the legislature should make the law more specific if they are

attempting to enforce the ban on homosexual acts.

If the revision is adopted by the legislature, Tennessee will join five other states which specifically classify homosexual acts as criminal.

Homosexual acts are considered misdemeanors in Texas, Arkansas and Kansas. Montana and Nevada statutes classify such acts as felonies. More than half of the United States classify sodomy or crimes against nature as felonies.

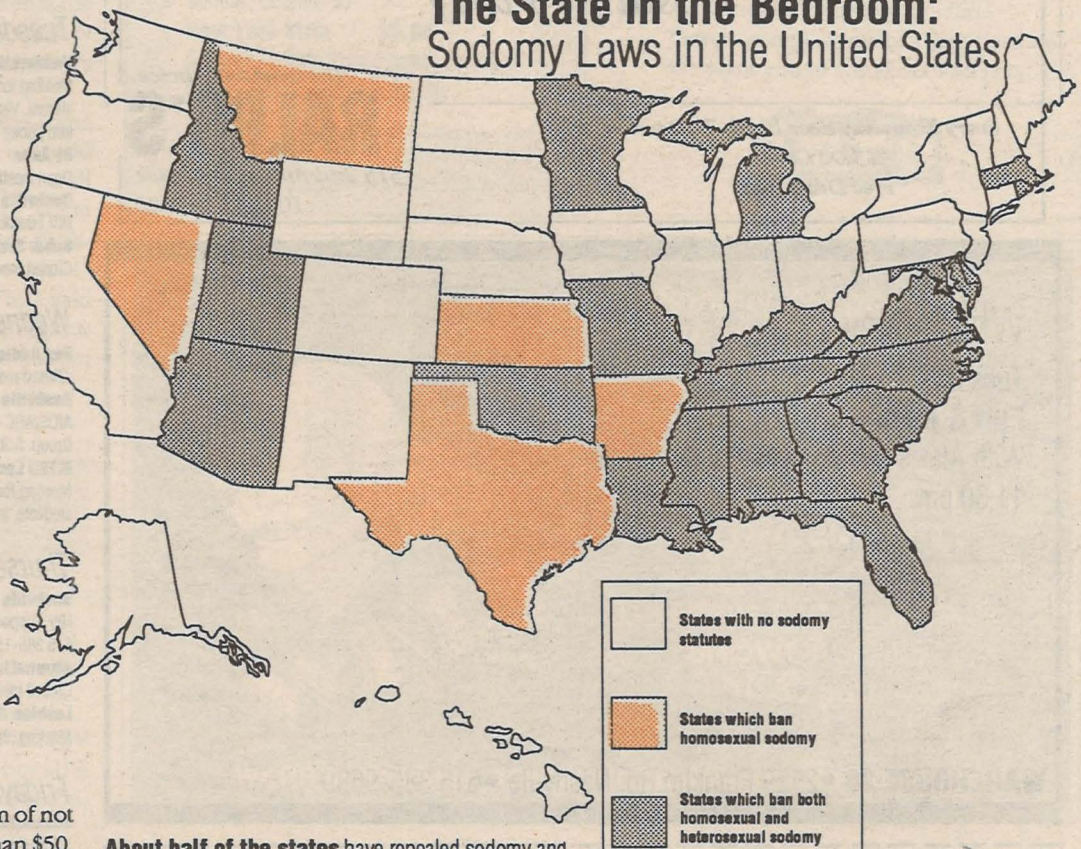
The proposed changes in the Tennessee code would downgrade homosexual sex acts from a felony (punishable by a prison term of 5 to 15 years and a fine not to exceed \$10,000) to a Class C misdemeanor (punishable by a jail term of not more than 30 days, a fine of not more than \$50, or both).

"I think the proposed changes are definitely for the better as is exemplified by the changes in the penalties prescribed," Cain said.

The revision calls for the penalties to be leveled against a person charged with an act of sexual penetration with a person of the same gender, according to the Commission's report.

"Our report has been filed with the Judiciary Committees of the state legislature. From there the legislators must decide the route it will take," Cain said. "It is our hope that it doesn't

## The State in the Bedroom: Sodomy Laws in the United States



About half of the states have repealed sodomy and crimes-against nature statutes. Massachusetts courts have struck down one of its two sodomy statutes, but the other remains on the books, according to NGTLF's Sue Hyde, coordinator of the group's Privacy Project. —DARE/STAFFGRAPHIC

get bogged down in a study committee. After two and a half years, we feel the criminal code has been studied enough."

Cain said the reduction of homosexual "crimes" from a felony to a misdemeanor indicates the Commission's desire to "rid the criminal code of archaic language."

"If we're going to debate the issue we shouldn't be using words that don't mean

anything," Raybin, a Nashville attorney, said.

Some Capitol Hill sources, however, privately have said the Commission's harsh language regarding homosexual acts are not necessarily surprising, alluding to Raybin's "hang 'em high" reputation.

"Individual members of the committee felt strongly one way or another about the issue," continued on page 4

## CAT Board to Meet; Assault on GCN Reported

By **STUART BIVIN**  
*Editor*

Fundamentalist churches attempting to have Gay Cable Network/Nashville (GCN) removed from the schedule of Community Access Television (CAT-Nashville Cable Channel 35) were reported to be organizing a protest action at last night's annual CAT Board of Directors meeting.

Reports were widely circulated mid-week that the churches planned to attempt to pack the meeting in order to pressure the Board to drop GCN from the schedule. The Board planned to meet to elect two new directors. Only station members could vote in the election, according to the station's charter, and the cutoff date for new members eligible to vote in the election passed thirty days before the election.

At press time, GCN spokesperson Diane Easter urged members of the lesbian and gay community and supporters to attend the meeting to show support for the show.

She also asked that supporters phone their Metro Councilmember to express support for GCN and CAT, to counter an anticipated move by the churches to deluge the Council with calls asking that CAT funding be cut to punish the station for airing GCN. •

## Churches Try to Switch Off Gay Cable Network/Nashville

By **STUART BIVIN**  
*Editor*

Gay Cable Network/Nashville (GCN/Nashville) is once again under fire for its lesbian and gay content.

Fundamentalist churches, led by the charismatic-evangelical Belmont Church, have mounted an organized drive to attempt to force Community Access Television (CAT) to drop the program.

Just before the program's Nashville premier, Metro Councilmember George Armistead touched off a storm of protest when he threatened to have CAT's charter amended to prevent it from showing GCN.

At that time, he told *Tennessean* television columnist Richard Schweid, "We're gonna have a problem with this movie about queers," adding that anything other than heterosexual sex was "sick and depraved."

CAT refused to drop the program, citing its policy of providing air time to any citizen who meets the station's guidelines.

The churches have asked their members to phone the CAT offices to voice their displeasure with the program. Some, as noted in the Belmont Church bulletin, have also asked members to drop their cable service in an attempt to gain leverage with Viacom, the operator of Nashville's cable system.

The move to force CAT to drop the program does not seem likely to succeed, according to CAT's executive director Elliot Mitchell, who has repeatedly pointed out that the station's charter requires it to make cable time available to any citizen so long as the program offered is not obscene, of commercial content or in promotion of a lottery.

In an interview Thursday morning at press continued on page 4

## INSIDE

**Jaan Sturgis  
is gone dishin'.  
*Sociables*,  
page 5.**

**This may be  
the most important  
vote of our lives,  
page 10.**



Saturday, October 29  
**Ladies' Choice**  
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Monday, October 31  
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## Dates

### Mondays

**Nashville CARES**  
 AIDS/ARC Support Group. 6:30pm. HIV Education Support Group. 6pm. Family Support Group. 6:30pm. Info phone 615 385-1510.  
**Lambda Group**  
 Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church, Nashville. 8pm.  
**MAGNET** (Married and Gay Network)  
 New group for married gay men. 1st & 3rd Mondays only. MCC-Nashville. 8pm. Info phone 615 320-0288.

### Tuesdays

**Vanderbilt Lambda Association**  
 Meeting for gay and lesbian Vanderbilt students, faculty, staff and alumni. Vanderbilt Divinity School, Room G 23. Nashville. 5:30pm. Info phone 615 298-9931.  
**Al-Anon**  
 Open meeting, MCC-Nashville. 6:30pm.  
**Nashville CARES**  
 HIV Education Support Groups. 7pm. Info phone 615 385-1510.  
**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 Couples Support Group. 5:30pm. AIDS/ARC Support Group. 6:30pm. HIV Support Group. 7pm. Info phone 615 385-1510.  
**MTSU Lambda Association**  
 Meeting for lesbian and gay Middle Tennessee State University students, faculty, staff, and alumni. 7pm. Info phone 615 893-2589.

### Thursdays

**Nashville CARES**  
 HIV Support Group. 6:30pm. Visualization group. 6:30pm. Info phone 615 385-1510.  
**Alternatives** (Alcoholics Anonymous)  
 Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men, MCC-Nashville. 8pm.  
**Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics** (ACOA)  
 Meeting. 8pm. Nashville. Info phone 615 385-4776 or 615 352-5823.

### Fridays

**Sexualities Anonymous**  
 Closed meeting, MCC-Nashville. 5pm.  
**Gay Parents Support Group**  
 Meeting, MCC-Nashville. 7pm. Info phone 615 292-0817.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group**  
 Meeting, Belmont United Methodist, Nashville. 7:30 pm.

### Saturdays

**Nashville CARES**  
 AIDS/ARC Support Group. 4pm. Info phone 615 385-1510.  
**Metropolitan Community Church-Nashville**  
 Mortgage Meal, all you can eat. 7:30pm. \$5.  
**Gay Cable Network**  
 Cablecast, Nashville Viacom Channel 35 (Community Access Television). 8pm.

### Sundays

**Manna Now Life Church**  
 Worship service, 11am. Nashville. Info phone 615 833-8581 or 615 834-4491.  
**Metropolitan Community Church-Nashville**  
 Worship services, 11am and 7pm. Info phone 615 320-0288.

## SPECIAL Events

### Saturday, October 29

**Halloween Party** Talent show and raffle, follows Mortgage Meal. MCC-Nashville. 8:30pm. Dinner & party, \$6. Party only, \$3. Info phone 615 320-0288, 615 885-8202 or 615 391-0222.

### Monday, October 31 HALLOWEEN

### Wednesday, November 2

**Meeting** GCN/Nashville volunteer meeting. Towne House Tea Room, 165 8th Ave North, Nashville. 7pm.

### Thursday, November 3

**Film** *Entertaining Mr. Sloane*, Vanderbilt Lambda Association. 220 Garland Hall, Vanderbilt, Nashville. 7pm. \$1 donation.

### Saturday, November 5

**Super Saturday Returns** Get-out-the-vote program. Distribute reminders to newly-registered voters. Sponsored by Nashville Voters Coalition. Meet at Edgehill United Methodist Church, 1501 Edgehill Ave, Nashville. 10am.

**Benefit Party** *An Artrageous Evening* Six Nashville art galleries open their doors to benefit local AIDS service organizations. Food, drink, and special entertainment. Transportation available on the Arts Bus. \$35. Info phone 615 255-8895. 6:30–10pm.

### Sunday, November 6

**Concert** *Romanovsky & Phillips*, "the gay Smothers Brothers," with Marianne Osiel. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. Sponsored by Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA). \$7. Info phone Scott Osten, 615 385-1510 or 615 269-4283.

### Monday, November 7

**Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance** (T-GALA) Monthly meeting. Towne House Tea Room, 165 8th Ave North, Nashville. 7pm. Free. Info phone 615 297-4293.

### Tuesday, November 8

**ELECTION DAY** Please vote. It's the least you can do.

### Thursday, November 10

**Brownbag Lunch Seminar** *Gay Victims of the Holocaust*, Peter Haus, professor of religion at Vanderbilt. Sponsored by Vanderbilt Lambda Association. Sarratt Center, room 118, Nashville. Noon. Free.

**Empowering Women: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow** Margaret Cuninggim Lecture by Matina Horner, President of Radcliffe College. Vanderbilt University Underwood Auditorium, Nashville. Sponsored by Vanderbilt Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center. 8pm. Free. Info phone 615 322-4843.

### Sunday, November 13

**Feminist Book Circle** Meeting. Discussion of *Going Out of Our Minds*, by Sonia Johnson. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. 5-7pm. Free. Info phone 615 298-9931.

### Thursday, November 17

**Lecture** *Supporting Healthy Sexuality*, author Ellen Bass. Sponsor: Gay Women's Social Group. YWCA, 766 South Highland St, Memphis. Refreshments. \$5. Info phone 901 324-6949.

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.



# It's Official: MTSU Lambda Association Recognized

By **JEFF ELLIS**  
Managing Editor

Administrators at Murfreesboro's Middle Tennessee State University Monday granted official recognition to a support group formed last month by a group of lesbian and gay students at the institution.

MTSU Lambda Association was given official student organization status Monday, according to the group's newly-elected president, Dan Webster.

"We're very pleased to have gotten the official word. Now we can proceed with the plans we've already made for the coming months," he said.

The somewhat low-key announcement came in the form of a memorandum issued from the office of Vice President for Student Affairs Robert LaLance.

Announcement of the group's formation and its recognition came in the wake of a series of articles which appeared in the campus newspaper, *Sidelines*, Webster said.

Following those stories, which purported to paint a view of lesbian and gay life on the 13,000-member campus, a rash of letters to the editor appeared, fueling the controversy.

Lesbian and gay student leaders sought to build a support group in light of the anti-homosexual backlash evident on the MTSU campus, said Lambda member John Weaver.

Ted White, director of minority affairs at the school, whose office is in charge of student organizations, said the Lambda Association's recognition was not unexpected.

"We did have to ask them to make some changes in their constitution so that it would meet University policy. Probably 95% of all student organizations have to make some minor changes. We did not expect any problems or foresee any obstacles," White said.

Despite rumors to the contrary, White said his office had received no complaints regarding Lambda's application for recognition from the school. •

## Briefs

### AIDS-Afraid School Board Settles for \$1.1 Million

From **STAFF REPORTS**

The Arcadia, Florida school board that barred three boys who had tested positive for the HIV antibody settled with the children's family for \$1.1 million. The board had denied the boys the right to attend school because of their HIV status. A national furor erupted over the decision, bringing notoriety to the small town and increasing difficulties to the family.

The Rays left Arcadia after arsonists destroyed their home in late August, 1987. •

### Kitty Dukakis Visits Memphis

From **STAFF REPORTS**

Kitty Dukakis, the political activist who is married to Democratic Presidential nominee Michael Dukakis, paid a short visit to Memphis last Saturday as part of a get-out-the-vote program. Dukakis met with over 400 supporters at a Petroleum Club lunch in her honor hosted by 9th District U.S. Representative Harold Ford and former Tennessee Public Service Commissioner Jane Eskind.

In her stump speech to the cheering crowd, Dukakis emphasized her husband's commitment to "women's issues" such as child care and the Equal Rights Amendment.

Dukakis is well-known for her personal commitment to AIDS issues.

In September, she outlined an extensive federal AIDS policy program to the second national AIDS Conference in San Francisco, including an executive order banning discrimination against people with AIDS, ARC, or those who are HIV positive; fair pricing for AZT and other AIDS-effective drugs; universal health care legislation; and increased funding for AIDS research, education and services. •

### Bush Says No to Homo Foster Parents

From **STAFF REPORTS**

Vice President George Bush, the Republican nominee for President, has said that he does not think that lesbians and gay men are appropriate choices for foster parents.

"I just don't favor that. I think a child should be placed in a home...with a mother and a father, and this in my view is the way it ought to be. Much more love in a situation like that, lasting love," Bush said.

The remarks came at a Michigan press conference in response to a question about Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis' controversial decision to deny foster children to gay men and lesbians in Massachusetts. •

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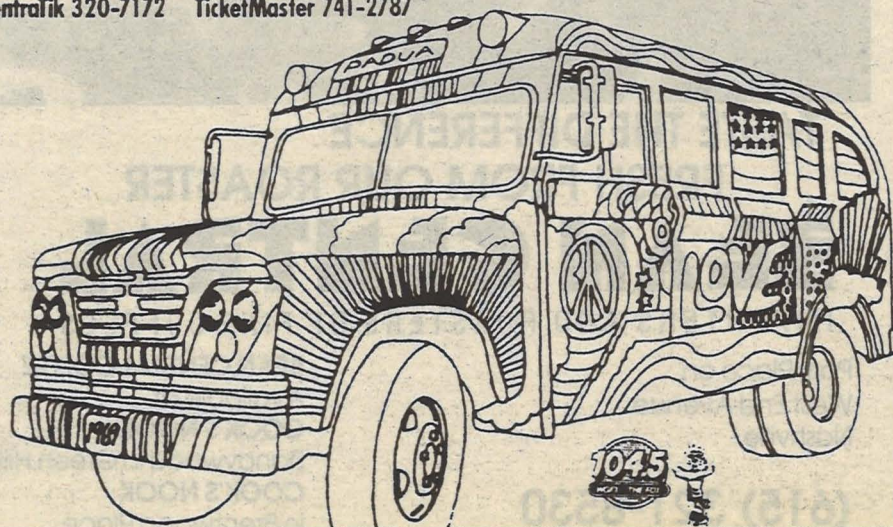
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## ...Sentencing Commission

continued from page 1

Raybin said, but were unable to eliminate the statute. Instead, he said, the state legislature will have to act in order to decriminalize homosexual acts.

"There is no reason at all why the Tennessee Sentencing Commission and the state legislature should take the step of reducing the crime from a felony to a misdemeanor without taking the next step and removing it from the books completely," said Sue Hyde of the Washington-based National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

"To reduce it to a misdemeanor, I think, for most lesbians and gay men does not reduce the sting of the state's inappropriate role in our private lives. Gay men and lesbians have the same inalienable rights to private consensual sex acts as do heterosexuals," Hyde said.

Consideration of the Commission's report is not likely until well into the legislature's 1989 session. Only after the Judiciary Committees route the report to a particular committee will

its various points be acted upon.

Various points in the Commission's report have come under fire from several diverse groups, including the Tennessee Sheriff's Association, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA). Other proposed changes would reduce sentences for certain crimes and would eliminate mandatory jail terms for people charged with driving under the influence (DUI).

Reduction in mandatory sentences would help to alleviate prison over-crowding in the state, Raybin said. Tennessee is currently under federal court order to reduce its inmate populations in the state's existing correction facilities.

"In regard to homosexual acts, the Commission's logic had nothing to do with reducing inmate population, but instead had to do with the continued stigmatization of gay men and lesbians in Tennessee," NGLTF's Hyde said. •

## ...fundamentalists attack GCN

continued from page 1

time, Mitchell told *Dare* that "the [t]ide has turned. Since the story appeared in the *Tennessean*, we've had a large number of phone calls in support of our position.

"It's important that people contact their representatives on the [Metro Nashville] Council. Many of those calling to complain about the show, when we can finally make them understand that we could not drop the show even if we wanted to because of our charter, many of those people then say that they will talk to their Councilman," Mitchell said.

While it is not likely that the Council would move to change the CAT charter, Mitchell said that the Council could cut the station's funding in retaliation for its airing of the program.

"In the end, they [the Council] will probably vote the way they're told to by voters calling them," he said.

If the Council were to try to interfere with the station's independence in programming, Mitchell predicted a fracas that would attract national attention.

"I'm pretty sure the ACLU [American Civil Liberties Union] would be on it like white on rice...It would be national news. This would

set Nashville's boomtown [status] back ten years," he predicted.

The hour-long weekly program, produced in New York City, has segments on such things as current public affairs, health issues for lesbians and gay men, and entertainment news.

Diane Easter, spokesperson for GCN/Nashville, said in a phone interview that the group's leadership was rallying support for the show and for CAT to counter the pressure brought by the fundamentalist churches.

Easter asked members of the lesbian and gay community and supporters to phone station management and Viacom to express support for the show. At press time, 67 phone calls about the program had been received by CAT, 32 in favor of GCN and 35 opposed, according to Mitchell.

Easter said that she did not think it likely that the station would withdraw air time from the program, citing strong support from station management on First Amendment grounds, but said that the group would not back away from a confrontation if the station's policy were to be changed.

"If they do, we'll be talking with our attorneys," she said. •

Catholic Cardinal Nixes  
Homophobic ViolenceBy STUART BIVIN  
Editor

New York City's John Cardinal O'Connor, long known for fierce political stands against homosexual rights, has denounced sexual orientation-motivated assaults and violence.

According to *The New York Times*, O'Connor said in a sermon at St. Patrick's Cathedral that, "[a]nyone who does such a thing thinking it is justified by church teaching about homosexual behavior is grossly ignorant of what the church actually teaches."

However, he continued by saying, "Since I have been the Archbishop of New York I have tried in every way I know how to make clear the church's teaching on homosexuality. The

church teaches that homosexual behavior is sinful. As in every other situation, however, the church never condemns the sinner, only the sin. Some people seem to get this all mixed up. They take it upon themselves to condemn the sinner.

"I wish I had language strong enough to condemn this kind of cruelty. Anyone who performs such actions in the belief that he or she is in some way helping society is utterly stupid," O'Connor added.

The Cardinal then directly spoke to those who might commit such acts: "You do an evil thing. Whatever you pretend to be, do not pretend to be Christians." •



# Sociables

By JAAN STURGIS

Staff Writer

What a busy two weeks! And have I heard some juicy things...

On Oct. 16, I had a little(?) gathering of my friends to celebrate my, uh, 29th birthday. It was a festive affair and attendees came from as far away as Bowling Green in the K-Y state.

Prominent partygoers included Frank Ashe, Alan Jewell, James Holland, Bud Blackwell, Alan Coates, everyone's friend Tammy Willard, Lee Kirkpatrick, Tim Roberts, Billy Isaacs, Matt Nelson, Dana Blickwedel and Jim Hoobler.

Most thoughtful gift? Well, my dears, it was a toss up between Bud Blackwell's Queensize panty hose (I think he remembered the party on Holly Street recently and was shocked by my bare legs!) and Alan Coates' name plate, "Miss Sturgis, QQ" (Quality Queen, of course). I think that everyone had a good time, but Tammy and I certainly did dominate the conversation.

Have you ever known Queens who were speechless? Well, it truly was a sight to behold.

When I was out and about recently, I met a young man named Jon Aucion. Claims he was visiting from Baton Rouge. I seem to have a Baton Rouge fetish these days so I was particularly interested in this person. Jon told me that he worked as a cook at a prominent country club in the City of the Red Stick and just loved seeing the Parthenon when he was doing touristy things in Nashville.

Bumping into Steve Davidson the other day, he told me that he'd just taken the exam to be certified as a licensed clinical social worker. After he finds out he's passed, Steve's planning to open his own private practice in early '89. Y'all watch for his shingle!

For those of you who don't have other plans on Saturday night and want to celebrate the gay national holiday Hallowe'en, those folks down at MCC have a humdinger of a time planned. Debbie Neely, coordinator for the affair (!), has wonderfully talented people line up to provide a star-studded show with the likes of Déjourné Shounté and Linda Burke.

They're also planning a raffle where for a mere \$1 you — or any other attendee — might be the winner of such tantalizing prizes as a \$25 gift certificate at the World's End or two free admissions and free drinks all night at the Warehouse 28.

I can already taste those Long Island Teas. AHHH...maybe that's where I need to spend this Saturday night!

Last weekend, you say? Yes, it's true. I finally made it out of town. As part of my birthday present Alan Coates took me to Asheville, NC, to see the Biltmore mansion.

Just after we got our tickets we ran over to the gift shop. What did our eyes behold? A pert, youngish man with a European bob named John Fortneney. He stood so statuesque in his black penny loafers that I just *had* to start up a conversation with him. Well, he told me he was originally from Pascagoula, Miss., but had lived in Baton Rouge for seven years. Did my ears perk up?

Naturally, I asked if he found it open there. A snappy retort came back that I'd like it a lot! What blue-eyed gods won't one meet in the strangest places?

Yes, the mansion itself is utterly breathtaking; and the library, with its dichotomy of

woods and imported hand painted ceiling are just to die for! It's rumored, too, that there was a secret passage from William Vanderbilt's room to the bachelor's quarters.

I must tell you about the trip. If ever you get to Asheville, a stop for breakfast, lunch or whatever at the Stone Soup is surely in order. 'Tis a quaint stone cottage where the workers actually own the business and they make the most flawless buns. So tasty! And the ambience reminded me of a leftover health food restaurant from the '60s or '70s — quaint and cozy!

Saturday night's meal was taken at the most wonderful restaurant: The Lake Lanier Tea Room in Tryon, NC. Combining the aura of a log cabin with impeccable dining made for a most memorable experience. Our waiter didn't write a thing down and remembered everything perfectly. The food: an example of Old South cuisine at its finest!

What's Tim Sharpe been up to lately? Dear-hearts, he's started a job at Tempo's in Green Hills. You'll catch him at this trendy eatery on weekdays during lunch and one weekend night. Why not run in and say "how-dee"!

Where have Penny Campbell and Paul Tucker been hiding lately? Greg Heiser, TSU's junior philosophy prof, has had them giving Gay 101 lectures to his ethics classes. Not only are there classes on the main and downtown campuses, but Paul and Penny have ventured to the Women's Prison, where they discovered a large number of lesbians.

Shy and demure Diane Easter spilled her guts when she quietly whispered into the telephone that she'd been to a lesbian wedding here in Nashville. Wedding goes spray painted slogans on the newlyweds' car which read "Getting girls" and "Girls just want to have fun!" Did you see that? In Nashville, no less.

Diane promises to be out this Saturday for GCN/Nashville at the various Hallowe'en parties around town. Watch for her and her stealthy crew as they may even photograph...you!

She may also get a chance to capture the *Dare* duo on tape. Seems the intrepid staff will be bopping around from costume party to costume party giving out pairs of tickets to either Tennessee Rep's *Taming of the Shrew* or Circle Players' *Dracula*.

The promotion, called Come Out to Play, involves running guerrilla raids on Halloween parties looking for "playful" costumes, the wearers of which will then be awarded a pair of tickets on the spot. Get it? Now some pseudo-literary person will probably make a crack about "the play's the thing," or about Ann Taylor being a Playmate or something. Sigh.

Speaking of Playmates, was that really Scott Osten (oops! I mean Gee! Scott Osten) in those pumps at the Nashville CARES Halloween party? The group's staff, volunteers, and clients were treated to some real tricks, from what we hear.

The folks at CARES, in addition to looking forward to John Bridges' benefit bash-to-end-all-bashes — the Saturday, November 5 *An Artrageous Evening* — are eagerly anticipating a benefit performance of *Music of the Night* at the Metro Dinner Theatre at World's End Restaurant Friday, November 11.

Until next time, dearhearts, that's *Sociables*. If you've done anything of interest why not give me a call — 615 226-4034 (evenings). I'm dying to hear! •

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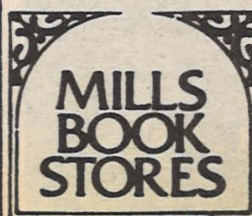
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Saturday, October 29

Costume Prizes

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Complimentary German Food from Mom's Kitchen



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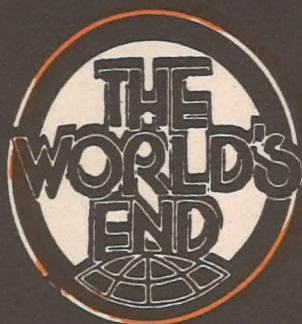
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# Listings

## Groups

### Agape New Life Church

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### Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC)

Box 40389, Memphis 38174

901 762-8401 or 901 458-AIDS

### American Gay Atheists/Memphis

Box 41371, Memphis 38174

### American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

Hedy Weinberg, Director

Box 120160, Nashville 37212

615 256-7028

Lesbian & Gay Anti-Violence Hotline

615 256-7028

### Black and White Men Together

Box 41773, Memphis 38174

901 327-3753 or 901 452-5894 or 901 726-1461

### Conductors

Box 40261, Nashville 37204

### Feminist Book Circle

Box 120372, Nashville 37212

298-9931

### Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition, Inc. of Memphis

Box 40982, Memphis 38174

### Gay Alternative (radio show)

Box 41773, Memphis 38174

### Gay Athletic Association

Box 22914, Memphis 38122

901 744-7312

### Gay Cable Network/Nashville

Box 22011, Nashville 37202

615 254-8250

### Gay Women's Social Group

901 324-6949 or 901 377-73123

### Human Response Council

901 275-3536

### Kinship (Seventh Day Adventists)

Box 171135, Memphis 38187

901 754-6160

### Memphis Center for Reproductive Health

1462 Poplar Ave, Memphis 38104

901 274-3550

### Memphis Gay Coalition

Box 3038, Memphis 38173

901 324-GAYS

### Memphis Lambda Center

241 North Cleveland, Memphis

901 276-7379

### Metropolitan Community Church

131 15th Av North, Nashville 37203

615 320-0288

### Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite

Box 41822, Memphis 38174

### Nashville CARES

Sandee Potter, Director

Box 25107, Nashville 37202

615 385-1510

AIDS Crisis Line

615 385-AIDS

### Nashville Women's Alliance

Box 120834, Nashville 37212

615 366-0555

### National Organization for Women

Box 40982, Memphis 38104

Box 120523, Nashville 37212

### Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

(P-FLAG)

Box 172031, Memphis 38187

901 761-1444

### Phoenix (Gay AA)

901 272-9549 or 901 276-7379 or 901 454-1414

### 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

615 297-8540

### The Personals (computer bulletin board)

901 274-6713

### Tsarus (Leather-Levi Club)

Box 41082, Memphis 38174

### Vanderbilt AIDS Project

Suite CCC5319 Medical Center North

Vanderbilt University, Nashville 37232

615 322-AIDS or 615 322-2252

### Vanderbilt Lambda Association

Box 121743, Nashville 37212

### Wings

(Leather-Levi Club)

Box 41784, Memphis 38174

### Women of Leather

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901 726-5263



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### Another Bar

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901 278-9353

### Apartment

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### Barbara's

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615 320-7082

### The Chute

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### Juanita's

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# HALLOWEEN AT THE CHUTE

OCTOBER 29, 30, 31

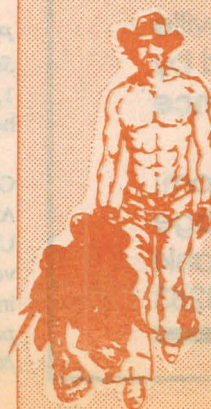
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Grand Prizes:

- A four-day, three-night trip for two to Nassau. Includes air and ground transportation, hotel accommodations and a lot more.
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- The top winner each night will win dinner for two at Billy Bob's Restaurant.
- The three nightly winners will compete in the finals October 31 for the Grand Prizes.

• Costumes will be judged on  
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Workmanship  
and Presentation

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Warehouse 28

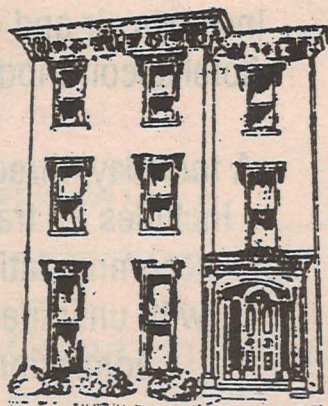
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## The Towne House Restaurant

Friday and Saturday Dinner 5:30-10:30 pm  
165 Eighth Avenue North • 254-1277

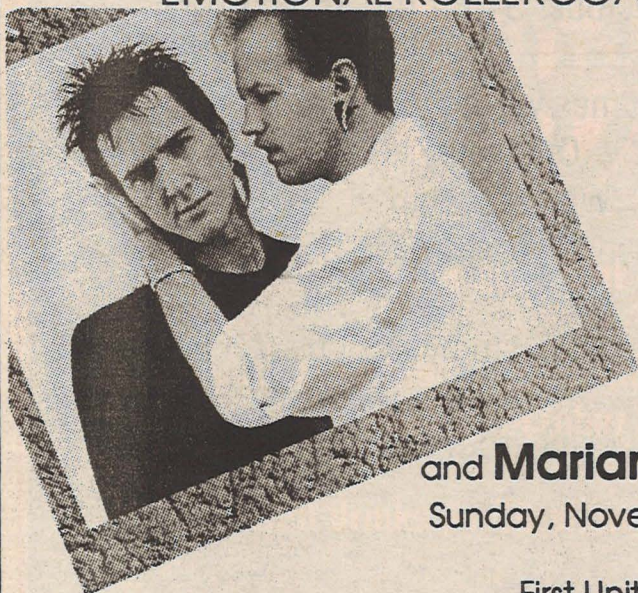
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## Quotes

"America has gone dotty over anyone with a title, even if they have one eye, one leg, or they're gay."

—Cindy Adams, *New York Post*

"No, because I'm not."

—Brian Boitano, who won the gold medal in men's figure skating at the 1988 Winter Olympics, when asked in a television interview if it bothers him that people assume that he's gay.

"In the past, the stars who have been injured by playing gay roles have been those who were so natural that they seemed to be playing themselves."

—"A Reluctance to Play Gay," *Time* magazine

"I thought I was the only one uncomfortable with the increasing use of the word 'queer' as a generic word to mean gay. I've heard that argu-

ment, too, about 'reclaiming' words. Somehow, I have failed to notice black people reclaiming the word 'nigger' or Hispanic people reclaiming the word 'spic.' And I, as a woman, have no desire to reclaim either 'broad' or 'chick.' So why, as gay people, are we using 'queer?' 'Reclaiming' or continued internalized homophobia?"

—Nina D. Boal of Baltimore in a letter to the editor of *Gay Community News*

"A medical examination in August of Senator Dan Quayle, Republican candidate for vice president of the United States, found him in good health, but he did have 'a small rectal tear in the past,' says the Associated Press. Mmmmmmmmmmm."

—Boyd McDonald in his column "Sex in the News" in *The Guide to the Gay Northeast*

## Curtains

### Tennessee Rep Tries Fluorescent Shrew

From STAFF REPORTS

William Shakespeare may just rock and roll over in his grave.

Tennessee Repertory Theatre, Nashville's professional troupe in its fourth year of residence at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC), has taken the Bard's farcical classic, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and set it in 1969.

One of Shakespeare's most popular and enduring comedies, *The Taming of the Shrew* is a boisterous, rowdy farce surrounding the age-old combative characteristics of heterosexual men and women. Often termed "The Original Battle of the Sexes," Shakespeare's *Shrew* concerns the continuing attempts of young Petruchio to tame, and eventually marry, the ill-humored Katherina.

Interspersed throughout this on-going war of wits and words is Shakespeare's spirited use of mistaken identities and unexpected subplots, taking the audience on a rollercoaster ride of unabridged comedy.

Tennessee Rep will utilize many of the elements of the Sixties Era in staging this production, including Sgt. Pepper-like costumes of the times (complete with bellbottoms and lovebeads), a kaleidoscope-painted "magic bus," and an extensive, mood-enhancing soundtrack of rock and pop songs of the psychedelic era.

New York's Becky London and Nashville's Myke Mueller head the cast as Katherina and Petruchio respectively.

London has appeared off-Broadway in *Psycho Beach Party* and *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, which just completed four years and 1,200 performances at the Provincetown Playhouse.

Mueller, a recipient of the Tennessee Arts Commission's Ingram Acting Fellowship Award, is a speech and theatre graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He is a veteran of Tennessee Rep productions, including *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Camelot*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *If I Live to See*



**Becky London**, Katherina in Tennessee Repertory Theatre's production of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*, lists among her credits a role in the long-running Provincetown production of *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*.

### Next Fall.

Also in TRT's *Shrew* are W. Dennis Hunt, Joe Mahowald, Denise Hicks, Cliff Jewell, Mark Cabus, Mark DeLaBarre, Joe Keenan, Gus Gillette, Jackie Welch, Barry Scott and Doreen Daniels.

*Dare* will award free pairs of tickets to *Shrew* and Circle Players' *Dracula* this weekend to Halloween partygoers as part of the newspaper's Come Out and Play promotion.

TRT's *The Taming of the Shrew* opened last night in the Tennessee Performing Arts Center's Polk Theatre with additional 8 p.m. performances set for Oct. 28, 29, Nov. 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11 and 12. Sunday matinees (2:30 p.m.) are scheduled for Oct. 30 and Nov. 6. Tickets, ranging from \$8 to \$16.50, are available at all CentraTik and Ticketmaster outlets. Tickets can be reserved over the telephone by calling 615 320-7172 or 615 741-2787. •



# Pages

## Mondo Mundane

*Mundane's World*. Judy Grahn. Freedom, CA: Crossing Press, 1988. \$8.95 paper. 191 pages.

By **SHERRE DRYDEN**  
Entertainment Editor

Judy Grahn is well known as a poet (*Work of a Common Woman*) and chronicler of lesbian culture (*The Highest Apple: Sappho and the Lesbian Poetic Tradition* and *Another Mother Tongue: Gay Words, Gay Worlds*). With her first novel, *Mundane's World*, Grahn attempts to add to that chronicle a fictional re-visioning of women's history.

*Mundane's World* centers on Ernesta, pre-pubescent member of the Snake clan, daughter of the mystical Donna. Donna and her siblings (three sisters Ernesta calls Aunts One, Two and Three and brother Blueberry Jon) are the children of the "great Mundane, who is currently on a lasting journey."

Grahn makes it unclear when and where the novel is set. Mundane's world could be a utopian, post-nuclear holocaust future, a pre-historic past, a planet other than earth. Grahn tells us only that there are four clans in the city of Mundane, each responsible for different aspects of daily life.

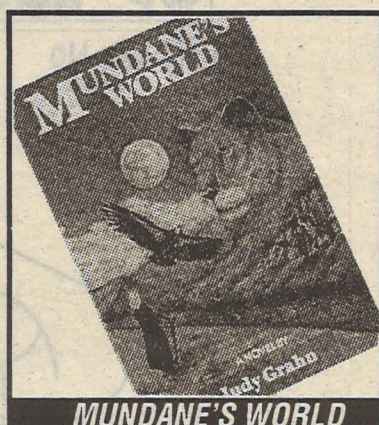
Snake is the clan of transformation, balance, healing and mixtures. The Bee clan, the clan of Ernesta's friend Jessi-ma, deals with constructions, water and the keeping of measurements.

The publisher reveals, however, that *Mundane's World* is a "pre-historic" novel, and quotes Grahn:

"I think of myth as our mind and of the ancient myths as our memory. For the collective minds of modern women, particularly

Euro-American women, re-visioning our memories means going back in time beyond our colonizations..." Grahn fails to provide the information needed to make this connection between Mundane and the lives of modern women. Instead of fulfilling Grahn's vision of an intensely personal document of our history, *Mundane's World* is, unfortunately, just one more title in the growing list of "feminist" fantasy fiction.

Within the context of a really rather charming coming-of-age story, Grahn concentrates on two themes, the importance of mysticism and ritual and the equality of all living things,



through an insistence on the essentiality of the female.

Although it is not immediately apparent, Grahn limits the human females of Mundane to one, very traditional, role — motherhood. Superficially, they play an integral part in the daily life of the community. They make buildings, weave baskets, direct ritual ceremonies.

Yet Grahn repeatedly connects the female with the color red (menstruation), with breasts, with cooking and other modes of (pro)creation. The idea of woman-as-mother is extended to non-human females. A mouse and a bush are discussed primarily in terms of maternity. The bush worries that her babies (berries) do not reach fertile ground and grow. The mouse exists only to reproduce.

The mouse and the bush are not merely examples of the females in nature. Grahn insists on the equal importance of all living things. Both are referred to as "women", the mouse's mates as "men." The bush is the spiritual mate of Donna, Ernesta's mother. Ernesta and Jessi-ma are punished for causing pain to a tree.

Grahn congratulates the human females, who seem to have widely ranging importance within their society, with the non-human females, which find only reproduction important. Human females, then, are reduced — in the mythical world of Mundane if not in myth — to the single role of maternity. •

**Although it is not immediately apparent, Grahn limits the human females of Mundane to one, very traditional, role — motherhood.**

**Superficially, they play an integral part in the daily life of the community. They make buildings, weave baskets, direct ritual ceremonies. Yet Grahn repeatedly connects the female with the color red (menstruation), with breasts, with cooking and other modes of (pro)creation. The idea of woman-as-mother is extended to non-human females.**

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For information on  
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**Nashville**  
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# Dare

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

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## Views

# A Clear Choice for President

With the presidential election just a little more than a week away, Americans are faced with making what will probably be one of their most difficult decisions — Michael Dukakis or George Bush?

For us, the choice is clear. Michael Dukakis is the best candidate for the job.

Since the presidential sweepstakes got under way some 18 months ago — from the first rumblings of political organizing, to the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primaries, to Super Tuesday and on to the national party conventions in Atlanta and New Orleans — we have been inundated by commercials, diatribes, speeches and rhetoric.

Many among us, early on, threw our support to other candidates, and we, as lesbians and gay men, were assured of our important role in the Democratic party. When the dust settled in Atlanta in July, our choice became clear. Michael Dukakis should be elected president.

In August, amid the sultry, humid heat of the Louisiana bayou, the Republicans made their disdain for gay men and lesbians evident by the outright hostility they directed at our community. The nomination of George Bush and his running mate, hapless Indiana Senator Dan Quayle, served notice that lesbians and gay men are not welcome in the Republican party.

Our choice for president became clearer. Michael Dukakis should be elected president.

Our reception at the respective conventions of the two major political parties, however, is not the only evidence we offer in support of the candidacy of Michael Dukakis and his running mate, Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen.

Rather, it is the Dukakis-Bentsen positions on gay and lesbian issues which illuminate our choice.

A Dukakis position paper on the concerns of gay men and lesbians states: "Every American should have the opportunity to live his or her life fully and openly and to contribute and participate in the life of our country without fear or intimidation."

"Our civil rights laws acknowledge that discrimination on the basis of factors such as race, sex, religion, age, national origin, or disability is fundamentally unfair."

"Discrimination against an individual because of his or her sexual orientation is no less unfair."

Dukakis has pledged his support of lesbian and gay civil rights legislation and has vowed to take the lead in ensuring our freedom from discrimination and hatred:

"I take great pride our nation's heritage as a refuge from persecution, a place where everyone should have the opportunity to realize their full potential without arbitrary limitations imposed on them. Intolerance and discrimination, no matter how subtle, diminishes us all, it diminishes our country," Dukakis has stated.

Further, he has pledged to set an example for other government officials and members of his administration. He reassures us, giving us hope for the future — a future that is unattainable if we continue on the course set by the Reagan administration and the course certain to be followed by a Bush-Quayle administration.

"Presidential leadership means setting a tone for the federal administration and for the country. I would insist as President...that the members of my administration would be sensitive to the needs of all groups in our society, including gay men and lesbians."

"I would oppose any administrative or legislative attempt to restrict the access of individuals or organizations to any government funded programs on the basis of sexual orientation. Where gays and lesbians have special needs different from the other people served by a govern-



ment program I would expect sensitivity to those needs.

"Sexual orientation should not, in and of itself, be cause for denying security clearances or constitute grounds for extraordinary employment review."

On the sensitive issue of AIDS, Dukakis calls the disease "the most serious threat to the public health we have faced in our lifetime."

As president, he will work diligently, using whatever resources are necessary to prevent the spread of the virus, to find a cure, develop a vaccine and care for people with AIDS and AIDS-Related Complex (ARC).

The Republican ticket, headed by George Bush, refuses to mention lesbians and gay men and will only skirt the issue of AIDS as a threat to the American family.

Recent polls have shown the Bush-Quayle ticket leading the Dukakis-Bentsen tandem by a sizable, but not overwhelming, margin. As a result, many people seem to have lapsed into a lackadaisical mindset toward the presidential election.

But our hope is not lost. We can make a difference. The lead enjoyed by the Republican ticket is not insurmountable. We can elect an administration that is sympathetic to our cause — the cause of justice and of freedom from bigotry and government-sponsored oppression.

On November 8, we urge you to elect Michael Dukakis our next president.

It may well be the most important vote you will ever cast. •



## Box 40422

### New Group for Black Lesbians

Dear *Dare*,

An open letter to my sisters:

Hello. After spending three months in Nashville, I've only met three gay black women here – well actually two (I already knew one of those three before I moved here).

Well, I know there are more than four of us in this town, and I'd like to put us in touch with each other! Let's pool our resources, share our interests, voice our opinions and have some fun!!

We have so much to offer each other, so much to share. We are developing a Black Lesbian Support/Social Group in an effort to bring us together.

If you are interested in meeting other sisters and sharing ideas and information about places to go and things to do around town, or you just want to talk, give me a call at (615) 352-4087 (leave a message), write us c/o Nashville Metropolitan Community Church, 131 Fif-

teenth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37203, and/or stay tuned to *Dare*!!

We're looking forward to meeting you – Les Femmes Unis!

Thanks for the space. I'll drop you a line occasionally to let you know both what kind of response we get and what's going on.

Yours,

**Patrice D. Lee**  
Nashville

*Dare* welcomes your opinions. Letters and longer Soapbox submissions may be mailed to Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422. Please type double-spaced. We reserve the right to edit for length. Defamatory material will not be published. All letters must be signed and include the author's name, address and phone number for verification. Names may be withheld on request. All letters will be assumed intended for publication unless explicitly noted otherwise.

## Between the Lines

### An Open Mind in the 56th District

By **DEBORAH BURKS**  
Staff Writer

As November 8 draws near, political candidates are putting in their last, intense efforts on the campaign trail.

And with all the media coverage focused on the Presidential election, you may have forgotten about state races. Granted, most of them aren't very exciting – the majority of the available state house and senate seats are being sought by unopposed incumbents.

In Davidson County, John Hicks is seeking his fourth term in the state senate in an uncontested race. All eleven of Davidson county's state representatives are seeking reelection and, with the exception of Jan Bushing in the 56th district, none of these incumbents will face serious opposition on Election Day.

As already noted, the race for state representative in the 56th district is an exception to the other dull races – an exceptionally good candidate is running in an exceptionally hot race.

The 56th district encompasses Nashville's Green Hills, Belmont/Hillsboro area, Vanderbilt, and parts of Sylvan Park. The district has several predominantly Democratic precincts and several predominantly Republican precincts. This dichotomy is perhaps the major factor in the unpredictability of this race.

Jan Bushing, seeking to represent the 56th district for a second term in the state house, is being challenged yet again by Republican Beth Halteman. Bushing narrowly defeated Halteman two years ago, winning by only 62 votes! (Remember this when you hear that old

excuse "Oh, why should I? My vote doesn't really count.")

Born and raised in the 56th district, Bushing has served this community by organizing such groups as the Hillsboro/West End Neighborhood Association and Adoptive Parents of Nashville. She is also a graduate of Vanderbilt University.

During her two-year term in the state House, Bushing served on the General Welfare Committee and the State and Local Government Committee.

For her work on issues related to children and youth, she was selected as Legislator of the Year by the Tennessee Coalition on Child Abuse. Bushing sponsored legislation to provide state funds for domestic violence shelters. She also opposed the bill requiring parental consent for abortions.

Incidentally, she's the exceptionally good candidate in this race.

Bushing's opponent, Beth Halteman, is a political science professor at Belmont College. She is a graduate of David Lipscomb College and Vanderbilt University. The conservative votes associated with these colleges represent Halteman's base of support. With constituents at my alma mater, David Lipscomb University, don't expect this candidate to be open-minded.

In contrast, Bushing is an open-minded, progressive legislator whose willing to work with her constituents, even lesbians and gays.

The 56th district race is interesting and important. Watch it, but more importantly, remember to vote on November 8! •

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