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VOLUME 1, NUMBER 41

THE LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSPAPER

DECEMBER 30, 1988-JANUARY 5, 1989



Dody Goodman, left, will appear as one of the Little sisters of Hoboken in the off-Broadway hit *Nunsense* at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville, January 10-15, 1989.

Chattanooga Firm Promises Secret AIDS Cure for \$7000

By **DEBORAH BURKS**
Staff Writer

A Chattanooga-based company advertising a non-medical cure for AIDS has raised the eyebrows and concerns of local AIDS service organizations and the Tennessee consumer affairs office.

According to a promotion letter received by Nashville CARES, Non-Medical Research Systems, Inc. (a non-profit charitable organization) is offering to teach an individual "how to train their body to bring about a cure (once) for HIV, AIDS, and ARC in a non-medical way."

The enrollment fee for the company's course totals \$7000 (\$5000 for tuition plus \$2000 for laboratory and materials).

"Currently, I'm sad to say, there is no medical cure for AIDS and I'm not aware of any non-medical ones," said Sandee Potter, executive director of Nashville CARES. "If I knew of one, I would give it away—I certainly wouldn't charge \$7000!"

Potter said that, assuming there is no validity in the company's claim, her immediate response to the advertised service has been

continued on page 4

Nashville Man Sues Over Unauthorized HIV Test

By **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

A half-million dollars in damages is being sought by a Nashville man in a lawsuit filed last Thursday against Baptist Memorial Hospital and Dr. John Lamb.

In the lawsuit, the man claims that Baptist Hospital had no right to test him for HIV-infection without his knowledge or consent. The test was performed on Dec. 27, 1987, when the man visited the hospital's emergency room for treatment of a broken leg sustained earlier that day.

Identified only as "John Doe" in the lawsuit, filed in Chancery Court by attorney Abby Rubenfeld, the man said he was "completely surprised and shocked" and subjected to "great emotional distress" when Lamb, an orthopedic surgeon, told him in January that

his HIV-test was positive.

The man seeks \$500,000 in punitive damages and an unspecified amount in compensatory damages from Baptist Hospital and Lamb.

In an interview Tuesday, the man recalled his experiences at the hospital a year earlier.

"Dr. Lamb was very cold toward me and didn't want to touch me," the man said.

After a two-day stay at the hospital, he was discharged only to return to Baptist a few days later after he began to experience problems with his leg.

"I thought Dr. Lamb had not set my leg right. While I was there, he asked me if I knew anything about infectious diseases and if I knew what AIDS meant," the 38-year-old man said. "I was devastated."

He said that at no time was he offered any counseling from Baptist officials.

However, after leaving the hospital, he sought counseling from Nashville CARES, an AIDS services organization, and talked to Dr. Lewis Lefkowitz of the Vanderbilt AIDS Project.

Baptist Hospital policy, which reportedly was set in place two weeks after the incident involving "John Doe," now calls for patients to be counseled if they test positive for HIV-infection. HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is believed to be the cause of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

Aileen Katcher, director of marketing for Baptist, said the hospital's policy on HIV testing "has been and is that staff physicians are encouraged to order HIV tests on those patients known to be at increased risk for the disease, as well as those patients whose clinical

continued on page 4



The first issue of *Dare*, March 23-29, was just one of the milestones of 1988. See the year in review, page 6. —STAFF ILLUSTRATION

Vanderbilt Professor Pleads Guilty

From **STAFF REPORTS**

A Vanderbilt University professor pleaded guilty last week to having sex with a 15-year-old male prostitute he picked up on Fatherland Street near the fashionable east Nashville neighborhood of Edgefield.

John C. Masters, a psychology professor at Vanderbilt, was one of 43 men nabbed during an undercover teen sex-for-pay sting conducted by Metro Police last winter.

Assistant District Attorney Richard Fisher recommended a seven-year sentence for Masters, but suggested the sentence be suspended and Masters be placed on 15 years probation and be required to formulate a treatment program for other people "who suffer from sexual perversion."

Sentencing is set for January 13 in the courtroom of Criminal Court Judge J. Randall Wyatt.

At the time of his arrest, Masters was acting chairman of the psychology department at Vanderbilt. Currently he is on leave from the university and his future job status will be determined by the school's review process. •

Judge Apologizes for Language

By **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

Lesbian and gay activists say they will continue to push for the resignation of Judge Jack Hampton, whose "homophobic" remarks in the Dec. 16 editions of the *Dallas Times-Herald* have unleashed new claims that Dallas is "the city of hate."

Some 25 years after Dallas earned that dubious honor following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the city is once again embroiled in controversy following Hampton's remarks.

Hampton is at the center of a controversy that has swirled since he gave convicted killer Richard Bednarski a 30-year sentence instead of life imprisonment which was sought by prosecutors in the case. Bednarski was convicted of the murders of Tommy Lee Trimble and Lloyd Griffin.

Hampton told the newspaper he had given

Bednarski a lighter sentence than was sought by prosecutors because Bednarski's victims were gay men.

Hampton's published remarks prompted an "outpouring of outrage," according to John Thomas of the Dallas Gay Alliance.

"The incident continues to be covered by the media. Almost all call-in radio shows in the Dallas area have dealt with it and letters to the editor continue to be published by the *Times-Herald* and the *Dallas Morning News*," Thomas said.

Thomas said his organization will continue its efforts to have Hampton removed from the bench.

Last Thursday, in a press conference prompted by criticism directed at the judge by the Oaklawn Ministerial Alliance, Hampton apologized "for (his) choice of words," but did not apologize for the light sentence given

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INSIDE

What we'll remember about 1988: the year's top stories, page 5.

Don't miss Sociables, page 9.

From the family album: a new feature, Snaps, page 8.



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Dates

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Radio show, WEVL-FM 90, 6-7pm.
Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)
Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 272-9459.

Tuesdays

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)
Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30 and 8pm. Info 901 272-9459.

Wednesdays

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)
Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 272-9459.

Thursdays

P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
Support group, St. John's Episcopal Church, 322 S Greer. 1st Thursday only.
Info 901 761-1444.
Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)
Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30pm. Info 901 272-9459.
Into the Light (Women's Alcoholics Anonymous)
Meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 276-7379.

Fridays

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)
Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30 and 10pm. Info 901 272-9459.

Saturdays

Twisted Sisters (ACOA)
Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. Noon. Info 901 276-7379.
Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)
Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 272-9459.

Sundays

Agape New Life Church
Sunday School, 9:30am. Worship service, 11am. Info 901 276-1872.
Into the Light (Women's Alcoholics Anonymous)
Meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. Noon. Info 901 276-7379.
Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)
Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 272-9459.

Nashville

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

Vanderbilt Lambda Association
Meeting for gay and lesbian Vanderbilt students, faculty, staff and alumni. Vanderbilt Divinity School, Room G 23. 5:30pm. Info 615 385-4283.
AI-Anon
Open meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.
Nashville CARES
HIV Education Support Groups. 7pm. Info 615 385-1510.
Sober Sisters (Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous)
Closed meeting, MCC. 8pm.

Wednesdays

Sex Addicts Anonymous
Closed meeting for gay men and lesbians. MCC. 5:30pm.
Nashville CARES
AIDS/ARC Couples Support Group. 5:30pm. AIDS/ARC Support Group. 6:30pm. HIV Support Group. 7pm. Info 615 385-1510.
MTSU Lambda Association
Meeting for lesbian and gay Middle Tennessee State University students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Murfreesboro. 7pm. Info 615 890-3787.

Thursdays

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

Fridays

Sexuals Anonymous
Closed meeting, MCC. 5pm.
Gay Parents Support Group
Meeting, MCC. 1st Friday only. 7pm. Info 615 292-0817 or 615 320-0288.
Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group
Meeting, Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

Saturdays

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

Sundays

Metropolitan Community Church
Worship services, 11am and 7pm. Info 615 320-0288.

SPECIAL Events

Saturday, December 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Watch Night Service Special holiday service.
Metropolitan Community Church, 131 15th Av North,
Nashville. 11:30pm. Free. Info 615 320-0288.

Sunday, January 1, 1989

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Monday, January 2

Party Social hour, free hors d'oeuvres. Tennessee
Gay & Lesbian Alliance. Towne House Tea Room, 165
8th Av North, Nashville. Follows short business
meeting at 7pm. Free. Cash bar. Info 615 292-0817.


TENNESSEE GAY AND
LESBIAN ALLIANCE

Thursday, January 12

Brown-Bag Lunch *That Strange Girl: The Alice
Mitchell Murder Case* (Memphis, 1896), Sherre
Dryden, Vanderbilt University librarian. Lesbian and
Gay Studies Lecture Series, Vanderbilt Lambda
Association. Sarratt 118, Vanderbilt, Nashville.
12:10-1pm. Free.

Potluck For those interested in attending the
Lesbian Agenda Conference Southeastern Regional
Planning Meeting in Atlanta January 28-29. 6:30pm.
Free. Info 615 385-4283.

Saturday, January 14

Potluck and Discussion *Martin Luther King
Remembered*, Black and White Men Together,
Memphis. 7:30pm. Info 901 327-3753.

Monday, January 16

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

GayRap *What Does the Bible Really Say About
Homosexuality?*, led by Bill Tracer, assistant pastor,
Agape New Life Church. Sponsored by Memphis Gay
Coalition. Meeting Room B, Memphis Public Library,
corner of Peabody and McLean. 7:30pm. Free.
Info 901 324-GAYS.

Saturday, January 21

Party *Recoup from the Holidays*, movie and
popcorn, Gay Women's Social Group, Memphis.
7:30pm. \$2 donation. Info 901 324-6949.

Saturday, January 28

Spaghetti Dinner and Fish Fry Black and White
Men Together, Memphis. 7-10pm. Info 901 452-5894.

Your nonprofit event can be listed free in *Dates*. Write
to *Dare*, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422, or
phone 615 292-9623 and leave a message. Please
include information about time, location, cost, spon-
sor, and a contact person's name with address and/or
phone number for verification. Deadline noon Tuesday
for publication next Friday.

Briefs...from Staff Reports

Lesbian Marine Released

LESBIAN MARINE CPL. BARBARA BAUM on Dec. 15 was released from confinement and will not have to complete the remainder of her one year sentence following her court martial on sodomy charges.

Baum was sentenced to spend one year in brig last June for alleged acts of "sodomy, indecent acts and conspiring to obstruct justice."

In what is being termed a "witch hunt" by lesbian and gay activists, some 25 women drill instructors at the Parris Island, S.C., Marine Training Depot have been discharged or imprisoned for being lesbians during the past year.

Two other women, Sgt. Cheryl Jameson and Sgt. Glenda Jones, are currently serving time in a Quantico, Va., military prison awaiting appeals in military court.

Baum recieved a bad conduct discharge from the Marine Corps instead of spending the remaining six months of her sentence behind bars. Baum's attorney, Susan Masling, said her client would fight.

"We're cosidering a military appeal and filing suit in civilian court," Masling told the Gay Community News. "I think it is outrageous that she should have spent any time in jail for her sexual preference."

Baum, 24, was charged after she was reported sharing a bed at a local hotel with Cpl. Diana Maldonado, who was later granted immunity in exchange for her testimony against other women on the base. •

Harvey Milk Remembered

MORE THAN 20,000 PEOPLE marched in a San Francisco candlelight vigil held last month to commemorate the 1978 murders of openly gay city supervisor Harvey Milk and pro-gay Mayor George Moscone.

The march followed the same route as one held the night of the murders ten years ago. Former supervisor Dan White was convicted of the double murders.

In Boston, the Victim Recovery Program of the Fenway Community Health Center sponsored a commemoration of the event on Dec. 1. City Councillor David Scondras spoke at the event about his own experience as Boston's first openly-gay elected official. •

Supreme Court: Feds Can Fire Queers

IN A UNANIMOUS DECISION earlier this month, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the National Security Agency did use the proper procedures when it fired a gay employee for having "indiscriminate" sexual relations with citizens of a foreign country where he was vacationing.

In a 10-page opinion that stuck strictly to the procedural questions and mentioned the employee's homosexuality only once, Justice Byron White wrote that a panel for the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia failed to take into account certain word choices in the language of three statutes involved in the case.

The Court of Appeals panel — which included rejected Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork — ruled that the NSA should have given the gay employee an administrative hearing before revoking his needed security clearance. The decision at the court of appeals level was based on the premise that NSA had revoked the employee's security clearance for national security reasons and was bound to abide by one of two statutes.

NSA had argued that it could have used a third statute and that although the employee lost his security clearance for reasons related to national security, he lost his job simply because he no longer had the security clearance.

The case, *Carlucci v. Doe*, involved a 16-year veteran of NSA's highly secret communications operations. •

Fast HIV Test Announced

A NEWLY DEVELOPED TEST that researchers say detects HIV antibodies with almost 100 percent accuracy in only five minutes is being considered by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Developed by scientists with Cambridge BioScience Corporation, the "five-minute HIV test" could revolutionize HIV testing in this country by making it faster, less expensive and more accurate.

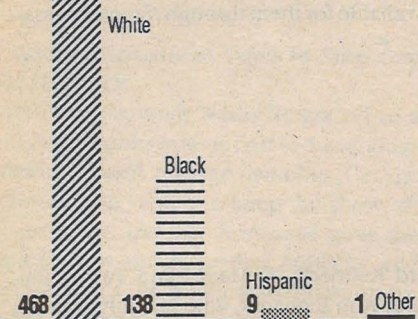
Announcement of the new test, however, has resulted in some AIDS activists warning that development of the new test could lead to more vocal calls for widespread mandatory testing.

The new HIV test is the first that is designed for widespread application that uses recombinant technology to test for highly specific HIV antibodies. HIV, which stands for human immunodeficiency virus, is believed by many to be the cause of AIDS.

Because the test will be easier to conduct, confidentiality of test results may be harder to ensure and proper counseling easier to ignore. The availability of cheaper, more convenient tests could lead to widespread mandatory testing, acitivists warn.

Some scientists have predicted the new test could be the harbinger of in-home tests, which would work much the same as in-home pregnancy tests. •

Tennesseans with AIDS



AIDS statistics from the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment. —DARE STAFF GRAPHIC

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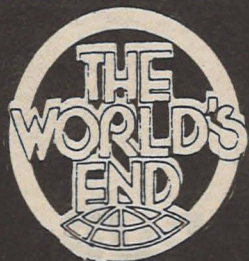
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...HIV test lawsuit

continued from page 1

cal illness suggests AIDS or other recognized HIV-related syndromes."

Katcher said the hospital considers "an injured person's very presence in our emergency room" to be "consent" for testing which may be ordered by attending physicians.

John Doe, however, maintains that he "was and is healthy as a horse."

"He tested me because he thought I was gay, pure and simple," the man said.

But although his health is still good, the man said the past year has been "pure hell" and has disrupted the lives of his lover, his family and himself.

"Although I'm healthy, I still wonder what tomorrow may bring," he said. "I'm going to do my damndest to see that no one else goes

through what I've been through in the past year."

The resident manager of a Nashville apartment complex at the time of the incident, the man lost his job as a result of the initial publicity brought about by his decision to pursue the matter through legal channels.

"When they found out, they fired me on Tuesday and told me to be out on the following Saturday," the man said.

Lamb, interviewed last winter on television, said the man "appeared chronically ill," a claim disputed by "John Doe."

"My medical records show I was perfectly healthy when I went to the emergency room, except for a broken leg," the man said.

The suit will probably be heard in Chancery Court in early 1989. •

...secret AIDS "cure"

continued from page 1

anger.

"I'm angry at this company for exploiting people living with AIDS who already have enough to deal with in their lives," she said.

The company has apparently launched a nationwide advertising campaign for their 13-week non-medical course.

Complaints from Iowa and Rhode Island regarding Non-Medical Research Systems, Inc. of Chattanooga have been registered with the Tennessee consumer affairs office. The state office is cautioning consumers to investigate the company before paying the enrollment fee.

Non-Medical Research Systems does offer the following guarantee:

"We guarantee that every student who enrolls in and completes our 13-week course will be or start to be non-medically cured (once) of the HIV virus, AIDS and ARC within 24 months of completing our non-medical course or we will return 100% of the \$5000 tuition paid by that student; providing, that the student does exactly as we say and instruct for the 13-week course and for the 24 months following agrees to be tested by a licensed medical doctor of choice once every thirty days from the date of beginning of our class for 27 consecutive months."

The guarantee goes on to state that proof of a non-medical cure will be considered as one negative HIV test in a 27 month period or T-4 cell count of 600 or higher for six consecutive months.

"I don't know how valid these criteria are for assessing whether, for reimbursement purposes, someone has been cured of AIDS," said Julie Jones, a social worker at Nashville CARES. "Is this company doing the lab work themselves? Is what their doing accurate? It sounds pretty suspicious to me. Right now there is not a cure for AIDS."

Jones also noted that the HIV-antibody test is not 100% reliable. "False positive and false negative results are always possible with these tests," Jones said. "Also, T-4 cell counts go up and down frequently. Some of our clients with pneumocystis will have T cell counts that go above 600."

The state consumer affairs office notes that even though the company offers this money-back guarantee, it is only good for as long as the firm is in business.

Attempts to contact Non-Medical Research Systems, Inc. have been unsuccessful. A Chattanooga post office box is used as the company's address and no telephone listing was available for them through directory assistance. •

...judge apologizes

continued from page 1

Bednarski.

The judge's apology was rejected by the group of ministers at a press conference of their own a half hour after Hampton's.

At another press conference later Thursday, lesbian and gay leaders reiterated their call for Hampton's resignation.

"We pointed out that Bednarski couldn't get off with just an apology," Thomas said.

A demonstration planned to show support for Hampton attracted only 30 people, Thomas said. That rally, organized by religious fundamentalist minister Rev. Donald Skelton of the Fountain of the Living Word Center in Dallas, served primarily as an attack on homosexuality.

A rally held by lesbian and gay activists earlier in the week attracted some 500 people and garnered letters of support from Sen.

Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Texas state treasurer Ann Richards, who last July was the keynote speaker at the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta.

"There was a good cross-section of people who spoke at the rally in support of our efforts to get Hampton's resignation," Thomas said.

He said the Dallas Gay Alliance, along with other groups, will continue to work toward Hampton's removal from the bench. The judge will be up for re-election in 1990.

"We are continuing to call for his resignation and are asking people to write the Texas Commission for Judicial Conduct and their elected officials to let them know of their outrage at Hampton's behavior," Thomas said.

Contributions to the Dallas Gay Alliance are coming in at a fast clip, Thomas said, and "for every donation we get, we send a thank-you card to Judge Hampton." •

Top Ten

The Biggest Stories of 1988

By **JEFF ELLIS**

Managing Editor

As the year draws to a close much of our attention is focused on the happenings and events that helped to shape 1988.

When *Dare* first appeared last March, it marked the first time that a weekly publication provided coverage of the mid-south's lesbian and gay community.

Throughout the past nine months, *Dare* has covered a wide variety of news events, ranging from the Nashville hearings of the President's AIDS Commission to more recent efforts by a group of Nashvillians to rid the city of so-called "obscene, pornographic materials."

But what were the biggest news stories of the year? What were the events that had the biggest impact on the community in 1988?

In answer to those questions, we offer these examples:

1. Nashville Celebrates Pride Week

When Nashvillians took to the streets in June to "show their pride," they were making history in addition to reveling in the lesbian and gay community's annual festival. People took part in record numbers in the event which attracted the attention of local print and broadcast media.



Balloons celebrating Nashville's Pride Week '88.
—PHOTO MARGARET COBLE

2. George Armistead Vows to Stop Gay Cable Network

Gay Cable Network/Nashville got off to a rousing start thanks in large part to the rantings of Metro Council at-large member George Armistead, who vowed to keep the show off local cable TV. Instead, Armistead gave the fledgling show much-needed publicity and helped to focus the public's attention on his own shortcomings.

3. Sentencing Commission Proposes Changes in Sodomy Laws

In October, the preliminary report of a sub-committee of the Tennessee Sentencing Commission included proposals which would eliminate heterosexual crimes against nature but would specifically criminalize sex acts between two persons of the same sex. Immediately, the report became mired in controversy as various groups sought to remove certain language from the document. The proposed change in the sodomy law is currently the target of lobbying efforts by Advance, the political action committee of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA).

4. 43 Men are Arrested in Nashville Teen

Sex-for-Pay Sting

Last March, some 43 men were indicted after a three-month long undercover operation conducted by Metro sex abuse and vice squad detectives. The sting was begun after the mother of a 15-year-old boy told police of her son's involvement in prostitution in east Nashville.

5. Metro Police Continue Search for Larkin's Murderer

The grisly September murder of Vernon Lester Larkin in his Hickory Valley-area apartment continues to be in the forefront of the news as Metro Police continue to search for the transient suspected of the bludgeoning death of the 30-year-old computer operator.

6. National Coming Out Day Celebrated

A national celebration, inspired by the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, was brought closer to home as 10 Nashvillians gathered at the Metro Clerk's office, demanding they be issued marriage licenses. The couples sought the licenses as a demonstration of the importance of same-sex relationships despite an Attorney General's opinion which said same-sex marriages are illegal.

7. Nashville Coalition Against Pornography Wants to Rid City of Pornography

Efforts by a fundamentalist-based group to rid the city of pornographic materials got under way in late November. Their targets? The city's adult bookstores and video arcades. The local organization is patterned after a Chattanooga group which was successful in closing that city's adult businesses. That group then turned its attention to closing Chattanooga's gay bars.

8. "John Doe" Files \$500,000 Suit Against Baptist Hospital

A story that is just now breaking involves a Nashville man who was tested for HIV-infection without his consent or knowledge. The suit names Baptist Hospital and orthopedic surgeon Dr. John Lamb as defendants. The suit is likely to be heard in early 1989.

9. Anti-gay/lesbian Violence on Up-swing

A report issued by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) showed an alarming increase in the number of crimes directed at lesbians and gay men because of their sexual orientation. A similar report issued by T-GALA also showed an increase of such crimes in Tennessee.

10. President's AIDS Commission Meets in Nashville

The traveling road show known as the President's AIDS Commission came to Nashville for a four-day stand in March. The hearings were interrupted by six lesbian and gay AIDS activists who were protesting the appearance of Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.).

One of the year's biggest stories, however, was not covered by *Dare*.

That was because *Dare* was the subject. The paper's initial publication and the subsequent refusal by the original printer to honor his agreement made headlines in both of the city's mainstream newspapers and focused attention on the growing lesbian and gay rights movement in Tennessee.

For the past nine months *Dare* has covered the mid-south's lesbian and gay community, providing a forum for the expression of views and opinions not otherwise available. •

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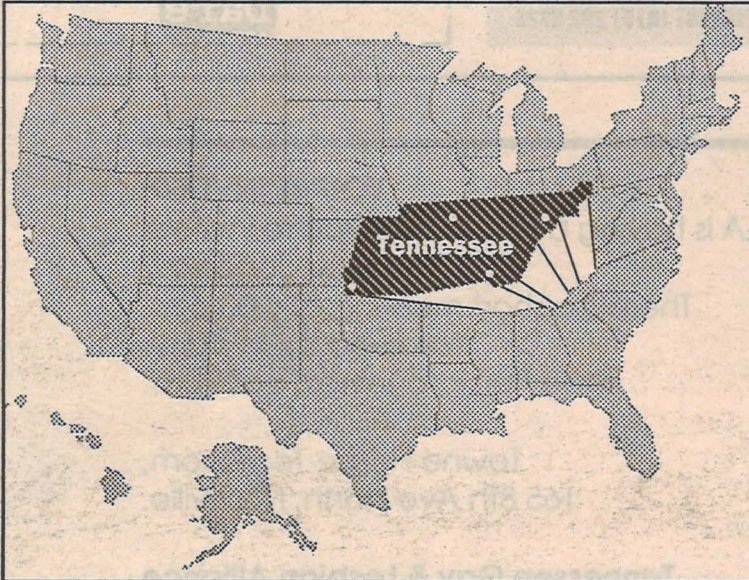
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News '88: the Year in Review



By **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

What many people describe as a watershed year for the lesbian and gay community in the mid-south is drawing to a close amid hopes for an even more productive 1989.

As *Dare* began its coverage of the community's news last March, editors and reporters alike were pleasantly surprised at the wealth of subjects offered by an ever-growing lesbian and gay rights movement.

In its premiere issue, *Dare* reported on the Nashville hearings of the President's AIDS Commission. Six lesbian and gay AIDS activists interrupted the testimony of Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.), holding hands and chanting "We're not going to tolerate your stupidity."

More than 40 men were arrested in March as the Davidson County grand jury handed down indictments in a sex-for-pay sting operation conducted by Metro sex abuse and vice squad detectives. The indictments were the result of a three-month-long undercover operation which took place after police learned that 13-to-18-year-old males in east Nashville were selling sex to adult males.

Nearly 100 people gathered at Nashville's Legislative Plaza in late March for a candlelight vigil memorializing Tennesseans who have died from AIDS. Sponsored by ACT-UP/Nashville (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), the vigil attracted the media's attention and helped to focus public attention on the state's reluctance to earmark funds for AIDS services or research.

Karen Thompson brought her story to the mid-state as part of Vanderbilt University's Women's Week and spoke of her mission to gain the freedom of her lover Sharon Kowalski. Kowalski, injured in an auto accident in 1983, has been under her father's guardianship since then and Thompson has been refused permission to visit her lover or to play any role in her care.

Bill Gordon, assistant manager of the Chute, a Franklin Road gay bar, was treated for a severe cut to the head following a foiled robbery attempt at the bar in April.

Sixth District Rep. Don Sundquist (R-Memphis) in April introduced in Congress legisla-

tion that became known as the "AIDS Assault Bill." Anyone who knowingly donated AIDS-infected blood to a blood bank could be charged with a felony if the bill became law. The legislation was defeated in committee.

Twelve-year-old Dwayne Mowery, who was forced out of Lake City Elementary School in the fall of 1987, was finally allowed to attend Clinton Junior High in May. Tennessee's most widely known PWA received moral support



from students and parents which enabled him to enter the school after the hostilities which occurred in Lake City. His mother, Norma, testified in Nashville before the President's AIDS Commission.

Vandals struck the home of Metropolitan Community Church-Nashville pastor, the Rev. Paul Tucker, in April in one of the latest episodes of "queer bashing" in Tennessee's capital city. Tuckers said his home was "in shambles" following the incident, but thanks to the efforts of friends and parishoners, order soon was restored.

Delegates to the United Methodist General Conference in St. Louis soundly defeated moves to authorize the ordination of gay men and lesbians as ministers.

Two Nashville men were charged in May with using a minor for obscene purposes following an investigation into a devil-worship-

ping karate school operation in east Nashville. Robert Brian Canter and Everett A. Chapel were each charged after taking photographs of a partially-clad 13-year-old boy. In November, Chapel was placed on three years' probation, after testimony from his psychologist and members of the Madison Church of Christ.

Transsexual Erica Knight in June charged that she had fallen victim to discrimination and harassment at the hands of her Kwik Sak

employers. Subsequently, Knight was transferred to another Kwik Sak outlet and was fired as a result of being late to work.

The President's AIDS Commission released its report in June, which said some \$3 billion will be needed annually to fight AIDS. The federal budget for fiscal year 1989, however, contains only \$1.3 billion for the fight against the killer disease.

Acts of violence and harassment aimed at lesbian and gay men rose dramatically in 1987, according to a report issued in June by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). Figures released by the Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA), indicated an upswing in incidents directed at lesbians and gay men in this state.

Nashville's lesbian and gay population were given an opportunity to "show their pride" during Music City's celebration of nationwide

gay and lesbian pride festivities. More than 200 people took part in the parade and festival held during June's record heatwave.

Jeff Levi, executive director of NGLTF, delivered the keynote address to an audience at Centennial Park. Metro council member Stewart Clifton was among the other speakers and performers who took part in the festivities.

By the narrowest of margins — one vote — Episcopal Church Deputies meeting in Detroit in July refused to recognize the right of lesbians and gay men to ordination.

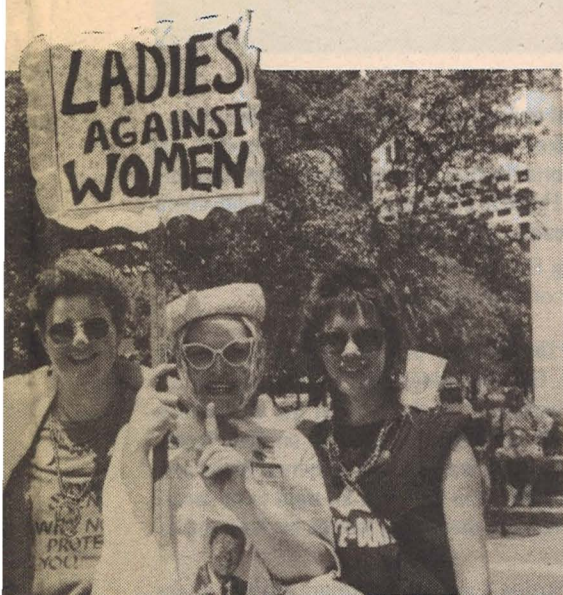
In apparent last-ditch attempt to consolidate the state's conservative voters, Republican senatorial candidate Alice Algood in August called for the closing of "all homosexual bath houses, orgy parlors and so-called gay bars" to halt transmission of the AIDS virus. Algood's effort fell short, however, as she lost the Republican nomination to Kingsport attorney Bill Andersen. In November's general election, Andersen was easily defeated by Democratic incumbent Sen. Jim Sasser.

Local lesbian and gay activists came away from a brief meeting with Nashville Mayor Bill Boner in August with promises of a September meeting to iron out any perceived differences of opinion. Boner's refusal to issue a mayoral proclamation for Pride Week prompted the meeting.

Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis brought his vision of the future to the Wilson Country Fair in Lebanon in August. Republican hopeful, and eventual victor, George Bush countered with a Murfreesboro appearance a week later.

Retired Lt. Col. Oliver North brought his





view

financial appeal to the Volunteer State in September in an effort to shore up support for his upcoming legal battles only to find almost 100 protestors outside the posh Hyatt Regency Hotel. The demonstration was co-sponsored by a number of organizations, including ACT-UP/Nashville.

After only two hours of deliberation, the jury in the lurid transsexual murder trial of Ralph David Frantz returned a guilty verdict in September. He was convicted of beating, torturing and beheading his transsexual housemate Michelle Byrne in January, 1987.

Metro Police are continuing their search for the man suspected of the September murder of Vernon Lester Larkin in his Hickory Valley-area apartment. Larkin was found dead in his blood-spattered apartment. He had last been seen leaving the Jungle, on Fourth Avenue South, with a transient who is now the prime suspect in the murder investigation.

Metro Council at-large member George Armistead vowed in September to halt the weekly airing of the Gay Cable Network on Nashville's Community Access Television (CAT) Channel 35. Armistead told the *Tennessean* that "we're gonna have a problem with this movie about queers."

Armistead's remarks unleashed a flurry of outrage from members of the lesbian and gay community, as well as from the public at large. Only hours after the *Tennessean* report appeared, Armistead reversed his position and said he "didn't mean to offend anyone."

Proposed revisions in the Tennessee Criminal Code would eliminate language regarding heterosexual "crimes against nature," but

would specifically criminalize all sexual acts between two persons of the same sex. The revision of the state's sodomy law was included in a report directed to the state legislature by a subcommittee of the Tennessee Sentencing Commission. Lawmakers are expected to consider the report in early 1989.

Spurred on by what they perceived to be a strong anti-gay sentiment on their campus, a group of lesbians and gay men at Murfreesboro's Middle Tennessee State University gained official recognition of MTSU Lambda, an on-campus support group for lesbian and gay students.

Ten same-sex couples applied for marriage licenses at the Metro Clerk's office in October as part of the local observance of National Coming Out Day. The group, sponsored by T-GALA, asked the clerk to issue them licenses in protest of an opinion issued by former Tennessee Attorney General Michael Cody.

Nashville's Metropolitan Community Church in November announced plans to move to larger quarters in east Nashville.

Nashville physician Dr. John Stuart Wolf Jr. will be given a new trial on child molestation charges after a Criminal Court bailiff admitted to an "intimate relationship" with a female member of the jury which earlier convicted Wolf on one count of aggravated sexual battery of his 8-year-old son.

An effort to rid the city of "illegal pornographic materials" got under way as members of the recently organized Nashville Coalition Against Pornography prepare to do battle "to make the city a better place to live," according to NCAP spokesperson Diana Maas.

Bob's Crazy Cowboy II was among the businesses temporarily closed as a runaway tractor-trailer truck wreaked havoc on several Franklin Road businesses in early December. Re-opening of the gay bar is still uncertain, according to owner Bob Simrell.

Tennessee Senator Al Gore called the federal government's response to the AIDS epidemic "an appalling indictment" and vowed to work toward reversing that trend. Gore's comments came during an open meeting with constituents in Nashville.

Two Nashvillians are among the new members elected to the Board of Directors of the NGLTF. Attorney Abby Rubinfeld and editorial assistant Gregory Tennison-Fisher were among the eight new directors elected by the organization's 13,000 members. •



Sunday, January 1

New Year's Day

FIRST SHOW OF 1989

Starring
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Natasha Edwards
Todd Wentz
Cezanne

Two shows at 11:00 and 12:30

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TUESDAYS

Fun & Games with
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50¢ Draft, \$1.25 Bottles

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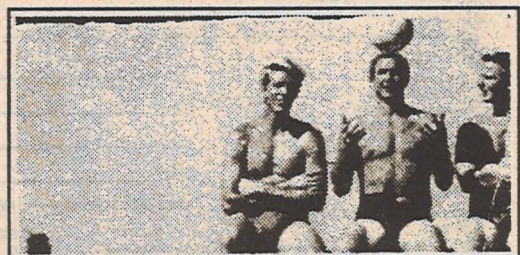
Shows

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SUNDAYS

Shows



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Quotes

"As appointments are made of those who will dominate, or at least influence, the Bush administration, it is good to hear that Mr. Bush is saying repeatedly to Chase Untermeyer, the personnel director of his transition: 'Where are the blacks? Where are the Hispanics? Where are the women?'"

—Syndicated columnist Carl Rowan.

"Number of inquiries about John Dillinger's penis received by the Smithsonian Institution each month: 2"

—Harper's Index, *Harper's* magazine.

"I say stand up for a job well done. Stand up only if your are truly overwhelmed."

—Memphis actor Mark Chambers (*Torch Song Trilogy*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*), in an interview with Robert Jennings of the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*.

"Percentage of doctors who say they would reject an unmarried woman's request for artificial insemination: 50"

—iHarper's Index, *Harper's* magazine.

"If I must choose a word to describe my social identity arising from my physical/emotional preferences, I'd pick Queer any day. Why? Not because it makes me look proud and noble in the face of adversity. Not because of any politically correct reason such as 'reclaiming it from my oppressors.' No, not even because it is gender-

neutral and reduces verbosity in conversation.

"I like it because it is a sharp pointy word...In this world the fear of a bigot is a badge of honor. And if I have to pick a tag, I'll pick one with some provocative guts. Sure, I'm queer."

—Rig Hospodar of Boston in a letter to the editor of *Gay Community News*.

"In the streets, people react very aggressively. They say things like, 'What you need is a good husband,' or 'up against the wall and a screw.' Or the rejection is plain on their faces. Recently I was walking with a woman friend and a man said, 'You think it's all right to be lesbians!' He had a disgusting look on his face and he spat."

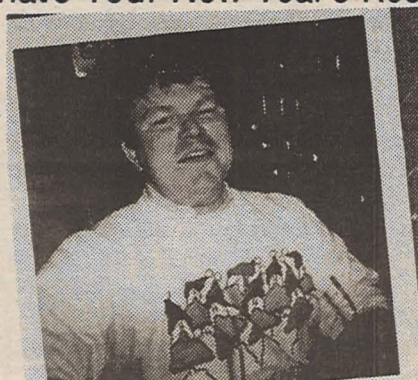
—"Martina," an East German lesbian interviewed by Sybilla Claus in a Dutch lesbian and gay magazine, as translated in *Gay Community News*.

"As we went to press, it was reported that President Reagan appointed Pearl Bailey as the U.S. representative to the World AIDS Day Conference in Geneva. If that wasn't so sad, it'd almost be funny. We should be grateful that the man couldn't serve another term of office. I can just see him appointing Carol Channing as Secretary of Defense. I've heard of lame duck presidents. Now we have a lame brain president. So what's new?"

—Rick Karlin, in his "E.T.C." column in *Gay Chicago* magazine.

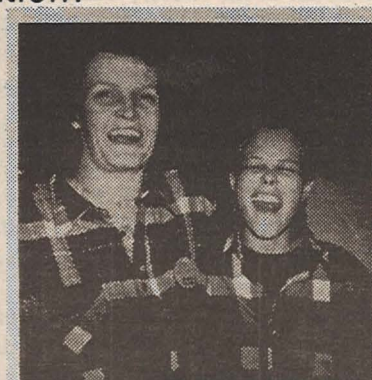
Snapshots

What's Your New Year's Resolution?



Mark Weber

"I'm going to be the new Oprah Winfrey."



Nancy Williams (left)

"My New Year's resolution is not to drink any more."

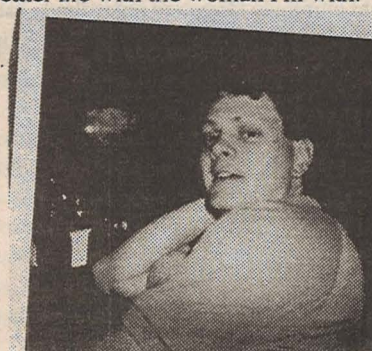
Sherry Carter

"My New Year's resolution is to have a better life with the woman I'm with."



Carolyn Akin

"My New Year's resolution is to quit smoking."



Jeff Holt

"My New Year's resolution is not to have to go to the malls for a return."

Sociables

Holiday Cheers, Queers

By JAAN STURGIS
Staff Writer

And just where have I seen you lately? Well, the days just before Christmas certainly did fill the air of Tennessee with a festive spirit!

The home of Jeff Ellis was one such festive place. A recent Sunday afternoon found all of Nashville's finest tasting tantalizing desserts that Jeff assured all of us were calorie-free. Somehow looking at my waistline did not altogether assure me he was telling the truth. Diet time is just around the corner.

But...back to Jeff's party. The array of party goers included ever-clever Carole Cunningham, Frank Ashe, Deborah Burks, Robert Worthington, *Dare's* dah-ling Stuart Bivin, Richard Gordon, Tony Mangiafico, Ann Taylor, Devie Levin, Sherre Dryden, and Denise Bentley.

And speaking of Carole, have you heard the latest? A promo was in the offing for her at work a few weeks back, and she's now the PR director for Blair School of Music on the Vandy campus. Bravo for her! And where did Carole spend her Christmas getaway? Why, in the gateway to the far west: Denver, Colorado. She spent time with mommy, her step-daddy and her aunt: the wealthy oil baroness. My!

Ann Taylor came up to me and whispered sweet nothings in my ear. Well, dearhearts, they seemed like sweet nothings because she told me that San Francisco is where she was Christmas bound! Enough to take a boy's breath away! As a matter of fact, Ann's breathing became a bit labored as she talked about it. Visiting her daddy and step-mommy, they arranged a private place for her to stay. And, best of all, she promises to spill it all upon her return!

The CARES Christmas party was lots of fun, too. About 75 people attended the festive event where Connie and Steve Leach even brought their own huge Christmas tree from Old Hickory to liven up the occasion. Of course, a large part of the CARES staff was there including exec director Sandee Potter, Julie Jones and Gee! Scott Osten. The event was a smashing success due in large part to the superior planning/coordinating by Connie and Steve Leach, Julie Jones, Stephanie Dewey, and John Senter. Our hats go off to you all.

Too, Connie arranged for a flawless guitarist named Steve Yocum to add a bit of merriment to the evening by singing a medley of Christmas carols. Fun!

Sandee Potter rushed up to me and said she really thanks *Dare* for contributing money toward the purchase of the book *The Color of Light*, edited by Perry Tillerias. The book, one of the Daily Meditation books put out by Hazelton, focuses on people living with AIDS and their loved ones and covers such topics as acceptance, anticipation, choices, denial, friendship, as well as a multitude of others. A grand little paperback! Sandee says without *Dare's* help, CARES would never have been able to distribute them to people who need them most.

Ed Stant told me recently that he's expanded his business: Granny's Attic. Somehow I just never thought of Ed as a granny, but what the hell. In addition to his furniture refinishing — which he's done for years — he's into memo-

orable antiques and collectibles. Why not stop and say "howdee" to Ed at 2911 Granny White Pike next time you're out and about.

Gay Cable Network/Nashville had a party for their growing group of volunteers. Debbie Neely and Patti Crowson hosted in their lovely brick split level in the Donelson Area. Attendees included Frank Ashe, Krystof Krakoviak, Diane Easter and her current friend *du jour*, and David Romero. Most memorable event: the advertisement where a group of the volunteers said, "Ho, ho, ho hum, happy holidays from the volunteers of Gay Cable Network!" Did you happen to catch that little clip?

Who's been visiting from the snow capital of the world (Buffalo) lately? Why Tom Coates, of course, the brother of Alan Coates. I bet that boy caught many a roving eye! The director of technical aspects of the theatre of the State University of New York at Buffalo, he came to the Southern climes to go Christmas shopping and has been practicing saying "Y'all." Goodness, what is the world coming to when a Yankee can pronounce that Southern expression correctly?

I rang up the bars recently to see what's on for New Year's, and it sounds like a doozie to me!

The Chute will have their ever-present New Year's buffet with free champagne near the midnight hour.

Just a lamb's tail shake away, Warehouse 28 offers party goers a Top 40 Countdown and a midnight Champagne toast as balloons come cashing down!

Juanita's will ring in 1989 with free champagne as the new year encroaches and promises happy hour prices all day long. How about that!

Victor/Victoria's is having a party — with party favors. Hmmm.

All I could get from the Cabaret was that they have tickets available for their New Year's party. Could be a real humdinger. (Or is that himdonger?)

The Gas Lite has scheduled a show with live music and the likes of Donnie Templeton and his band as well as regulars Jeff Bowen and Stephen Dewey (any relation to the near-president?) Hats and party favors will abound as well as free champagne and a yummy buffet. Sounds like fun to me.

The Jungle will sport a special theme show with all the trimmings — hats, balloons, noisemakers, and the midnight bubbly.

Ralph's gathering sounds like it will be great sport. With blackeyed peas at midnight, you can get an immediate start on good fortune for 1989!

Diane and Tracy fans will be bustin' down the doors for that best seat at Douglas Corner Café.

And if those choices aren't enough to overwhelm 'ya, WKRB in Memphis has invited all of us to come on down, or over, or up, depending on your starting point.

Well, dearhearts, another *Sociables* has come to a close. Give me a jingle and tell me what you did for New Year's or over your Christmas holiday — (615) 226-4034. You'll be hearing all about my getaway week to Savannah and Charleston next time. A marvy 1989 to you! •



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New Year's Eve Party!

8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 31

Food

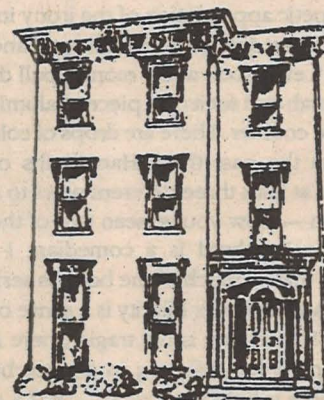
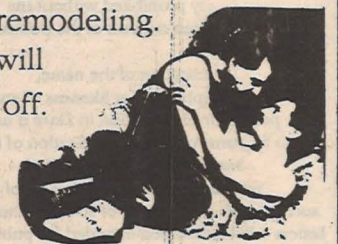
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Dare

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

December 30, 1988-January 5, 1989
Volume 1, Number 41

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Views

So Far, So Good

IT'S BEEN a hell of a year, but somehow we've lived to tell about it.

Although there were times we weren't sure if we could hold up under the pressure inherent in publishing *Dare*, we have, for all practical purposes, made it. The course of the past nine months has not always been an easy one for members of the *Dare* staff. But through a spirited effort — and much dedication and perseverance — we have survived and thrived.

And we're proud of that.

It's been fun, but it's also been difficult. Yet there are no regrets about putting our heads on the chopping block for the past 41 weeks. Although there were times when we doubted we could go one more hour, we feel nonetheless that we've come through with a good nine months' work.

There was plenty of room for misuse and abuse of the power inherent in publishing a weekly newspaper, but we felt we were, and are, responsible in our efforts. Whether we care to admit it or not, any newspaper does have power in its community and it could be quite easy to abuse that power. We've tried to be vigilant and to strive to keep things in the proper perspective.

There have been times when the going got rough, but through it all, we kept in mind our duty to the community. Our purpose is to provide adequate news coverage, as well as to provide a forum for the expression of opinions.

Perhaps there is nothing of which we are prouder than the success of

our serial features and in-depth pieces. Because our community is a hotbed of differing opinions, we sought to provide a forum for the expression of those opinions. Through that, we feel we have done a service by presenting provocative writing: news stories, editorials, and investigative pieces.

And we're proud of that.

We have accomplished much of what we set out to do in March — to make our readers think.

It took controversy, sex stings, pornography, naming names, sodomy laws and much more, but, above all, we've tried to provoke searching thought and sometimes heated discussion.

We have been controversial at times, sometimes because we thought it was important to be so, and sometimes because the controversy arose from our very existence. We have chosen to present a broad range of material and opinions, including fresh, biting, incisive reviews that at times offended, rather than pleasing. But, still, the purpose was to provoke thought.

If we pleased one person, offended another, made someone examine some issue, then we did our job — and did it well. That means more than all the arguments that have been made in the course of the last nine months.

It's been fun. It's been enlightening. And it's been tiring. But our job is far from finished. We'll be back next week, and the next, and the next after that, with more of the same.

And we're very proud of that. •

*It's been fun. It's
been enlightening.
And it's been tiring.
But our job is far
from finished. We'll
be back next week,
and the next, and
the next after
that...*

Pages

Confess! Similar to Fluff

Confessions of a Pretty Lady. By Sandra Bernhard.
New York: Harper & Row, 1988. 128 pp. \$12.95.

By JOE MAROHL
Staff Writer

Confessions of a Pretty Lady is too slight a book to criticize.

For good and bad, much of it reads like a parody of Ann Beattie's short fiction. At its worst, which isn't really too terrible, the book is a tasteful examination of contemporary life, like, say, *thirtysomething*. That is, at its worst.

Its brilliant passages remind one of the tough comic edge its author, Sandra Bernhard, gave to the role of Masha in Martin Scorsese's distinguished film *The King of Comedy* — for instance, her hilarious account of a date with Isaac Bashevis Singer, during which the Nobel Prize-winning writer pushes for a three-way with her and some model he had gone out with once.

In other passages, Bernhard reaches down into herself and reveals something deeper, an almost poetic appreciation of the irony in life:

"My parents' divorce is final this year and my dad won't even look at my mom. I pull down the menorah and set it on a piece of aluminum foil on the counter. There are drops of colored wax from the past three Hanukkahs on it. There are at least three different ways to spell Chanukah — now you've seen two of them."

Because Bernhard is a comedian, I was surprised that so much of the book is serious. Not far away from her hilarity is a sense of the pathetic. Her writing is not tragic (there is no high purpose for suffering in it), not bitter-sweet (there is little sentiment) — it is a cold, intelligent presentation of a culture in shock.

The world she writes about is one where



SANDRA BERNHARD

haircuts, aerobics class, and shopping are sandwiched among rape, AIDS and political terrorism.

The book peculiarly lacks a definite point of view. Bernhard apparently prefers to view the world from shifting perspectives. For instance, the sexuality she exudes in the book is strangely ambivalent, perhaps even polymorphous. She writes about the women she has crushes on; she describes a "new crop of beautiful young boys" on a California beach in erotically charged prose.

The book criss-crosses confessional memoir and stand-up comedy routine, expressing truth even while playing with fact. The style is chatty, full of gossip and phatic asides. The style owes much to the style of speech one uses while talking on the phone — convivial, un-urgent, episodic.

Confessions of a Pretty Lady is populated mainly with outcasts. Her gay and bisexual friends at beauty school. The lesbian auto mechanic in her hometown. Her older brother who left home to be like Bob Dylan or Jack Kerouac. Herself. The people who don't fit in earn her respect and admiration simply for their exclusion from oppressive norms. She attacks only the pompous and the dull.

What I find most to admire in the book is Bernhard's ability to tell painfully personal things about herself (abortion, herpes, loneliness) in a way that is not maudlin or self-pitying. There is a certain hard matter-of-factness about every revelation.

The more uncomfortable or embarrassing the confession is, the less likely is she to trivialize or exploit it for laughs or pity. She is clinically precise as she describes the pain and humiliation which are part of life.

The book accrues meaning through montage — a sort of verbal collage — as when she follows a brief narration of her physician father's reported "cure" for one patient's homosexuality, with the news of a gruesome local suicide.

Sometimes funny, sometimes pensive, sometimes violent, the book always seems to be tongue-in-cheek. Are we supposed to laugh at this? Are we really supposed to believe this happen? Well, why not? The book is too cool for criticism.

I say read it for yourself. Cover to cover will take you less than two hours. I promise you, you will find only two, perhaps three or four or five, things in it which will take your breath away. The rest of it is all very slight stuff, really. •

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Stay tuned for 1989.

Dare

Notices

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• The Lesbian Agenda Conference will hold Southeastern Regional Planning Meeting in Atlanta Jan 28-29. Interested? Potluck meeting Jan. 12, 6:30pm. Info 615 385-4283.

• Button, button, who's got the button? Wear your Dare button or your Stamp Out AIDS button during the holidays and you could win tickets, calendars and other great prizes. We'll be looking for you in Memphis and Nashville. Button up!

• Watch GCN/Nashville Tuesdays at 9pm, Saturdays at 8pm. Or both! Exclusively on Nashville's Cable 35.

• Help stop the proposed homophobic changes in Tennessee's crimes against nature law. Send your contribution to Advance, the political action committee of the Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance. Freedom — the best Christmas gift of all. Advance, Box 24181, Nashville, TN 37202. Not tax-deductible. Info 615 385-4283

• **LONG HOURS. HARD WORK. NO PAY.** Dare is accepting applications from writers. Learn community-oriented journalism, and be one of the best. Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone 615-292-9623.

• 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.

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• Rmmate needed M'boro. Walk MTSU. Non-smoker.

PWA welcome. Fireplace, cable. \$200 + utils. 615 893-7709.

• Great house in Green Hills! LF seeks roommate for 2BR house. Available Jan 1. No smoking. \$250 + utils. 615 292-0817, leave message.

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• Have you advertised in the personals? I want to talk to you for a news story about love between the lines. Your name is confidential, of course. Write to Jeff Ellis, Managing Editor, Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204.

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All ads run two consecutive weeks and cost
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Dykes... To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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Nashville Council on AIDS Resources, Education and Services
Box 25107, Nashville, TN 37202
615 385-1510

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