

Dare

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TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

APRIL 28—MAY 4, 1989

Forty-one arrested

ACT UP demonstrators protest South Carolina AIDS laws, police wear rubber gloves

by **DEBORAH BURKS**
Staff Writer

Targeting South Carolina's "oppressive" AIDS laws, 125 people participated in a civil disobedience demonstration staged last Thursday at the state capitol in Columbia. Forty-one of the demonstrators were arrested as they blocked traffic at two major intersections in front of the Capitol building.

The demonstration was organized by ACT UP/Atlanta and was supported by ACT UP/New York and ACT UP/New Orleans as well as individuals from both South and North Carolina.

According to Chip Rowan, legal coordinator for ACT UP/Atlanta, one of the purposes of the demonstration was to call attention to AIDS legislation passed last spring by the South Carolina legislature. The legislation includes provisions for a ban on anonymous HIV testing, for quarantine of certain people with HIV infection or

those "reasonably suspected" of having HIV, for forcible or mandatory testing of individuals suspected of HIV infection (including anyone in police custody), and for the removal of HIV-positive children from public schools.

"South Carolina is one of the few states that does not allow anonymous HIV testing. There is some of the most oppressive and repressive AIDS legislation in the country," Rowan told *Dare*. "People have actually been quarantined using these laws, so it's not just theoretical that such things could happen in this state."

The demonstrators' demands included: the repeal of the state's recent AIDS legislation package, the introduction of laws protecting people with AIDS or HIV from discrimination, a fiscal commitment from the state to services for and culturally-sensitive education on AIDS, and provisions for anonymous test sites.

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Jeff Levi, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, will be in Nashville Sunday, May 7, for three events, including an open brunch meeting, an invitation-only private fundraiser and an open benefit show. Levi will leave NGLTF at the end of July. —PHOTO COURTESY NGLTF

Michaud set for counseling, "evaluation"

by **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

Nashville entertainment manager George Michaud, sentenced to three years in prison for soliciting sex from a teen-age boy, will undergo counseling and evaluation before a May 19 hearing to set the terms of his sentence.

Criminal Court Judge Thomas Shriver last week imposed the three-year sentence after a jury found Michaud guilty of soliciting sex from Tony St. Clair during an undercover operation conducted in December, 1987, and January, 1988.

"They're wanting to send me to two or three counselors for screening to determine if I'm a child molester," Michaud told *Dare* Tuesday. "I am not a child molester."

Michaud declined to comment further on the sentence handed down last week by Shriver, but indicated a willingness to discuss his case later, after conferring with his attorney. Michaud's attorney, Charles Ray, is vacationing in Ireland and was unavailable for comment.

Michaud is the only one of 43 men arrested in the undercover sex sting operation whose case has been heard in Criminal Court. Most of the others charged in the operation have pleaded guilty to solicitation and have been placed on probation.

Michaud was convicted by a Criminal Court jury last month of soliciting sex from St. Clair, who was 15 at the time of the sting operation, and of promoting prostitution by discussing a possible sexual encounter with another man.

• continued on page 4

Gay Nineties? Southeastern Conference plans future

by **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

Planning strategies for the 1990s was among the topics discussed by delegates gathered last week in Dallas for the fourteenth annual Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men (SEC).

"The way for the southeast region to really become involved in the struggle for lesbian and gay civil rights is to begin discussing these strategies now," said SEC board member Sam Adams of Nashville.

Much of the direction for lesbians and gay men in the '80s, Adams suggested, has been the result of the AIDS epidemic.

To effectively meet the challenge of the '90s, he said, "we should begin planning the agenda for ourselves, not let others plan it for us."

"What I hear a lot of people saying is that our primary concern should not be AIDS, but the problems that will exist after AIDS is defeated — politics, voter registration, civil rights," Adams said.

He was quick to note, however, that AIDS has not been forgotten by lesbian and gay

activists.

"In 1983, the Southeastern Conference, meeting in New Orleans, co-hosted one of the first AIDS education conferences. So that shows a commitment to the issue. But there are other things that will be problems in the future that we must address," Adams said.

The four-day conference, drawing delegates from throughout the southeastern United States — from Maryland to Florida, the Carolinas to New Mexico — is the oldest regional conference for lesbians and gay men in the country.

Among speakers at the conference were Vivian Shapiro, former co-chair for the Human Rights Campaign Fund; Renée McCoy, executive director of the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG); Stephen Beck, associate

director of the Design Industries Foundation for AIDS (DIFFA); David Scondras, Boston's first openly gay city councillor; and Virginia Apuzzo, deputy executive director of the New York State Consumer Protection Board and former executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and of the

Fund for Human Dignity.

This year's conference site, Dallas, marked the first time for it to be held outside the regional boundaries of the southeast, Adams said.

"One of the problems with the conference was the site. Many people just didn't want to travel that far. One reason for it being held in Dallas was to attract members of the Desert

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I N S I D E

Happy May Day!

The play's the thing:
Stella and Evita in Tennessee,
Curtains, page 6.

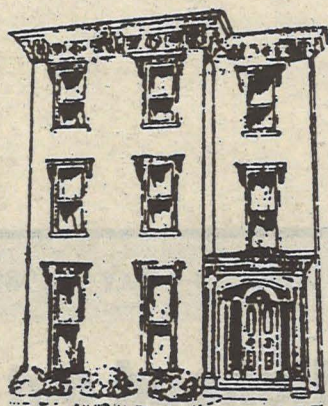


A new psychology of gay
men, *Being Homosexual*
Pages, page 7.



Was Jesus at the
March on Washington?
Quotes, page 8.





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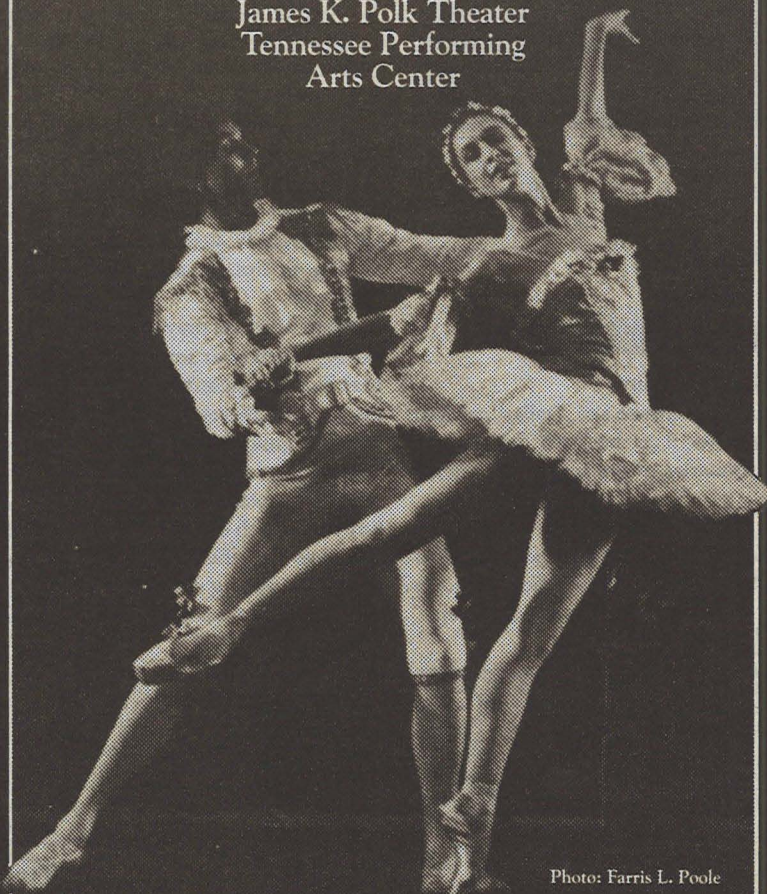


Photo: Farris L. Poole

Following each performance there will be a reception to meet Cinderella, Prince Charming and members of the Company. Evenings: Wine and Cheese. Matinee: Ice Cream Social. Tickets \$18 & \$15. Call Now! TicketMaster 741-2787

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D A T E S

Memphis

Mondays

Gay Alternative Hour 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.
Holy Trinity Community Church Worship service, 11am. 1216 Forrest Ave. Info 901 726-9443.
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

Gay Overeaters Anonymous Open meeting for lesbian and gay overeaters. MCC, 5:30pm. Info 615-327-461.
Nashville CARES HIV+ Educational Support Group. 6:30pm. ARC/AIDS Support Group, bimonthly. 6:30pm. Family Support Group, bimonthly. 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

Nashville CARES ARC/AIDS Support Group. 4pm. Info 615-385-1510.
AI-Anon Closed meeting. MCC. 6:30pm.
P-FLAG Meeting of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 4th Tuesday only. Unitarian Church. 7:30pm. Info 615-662-0332.
MTSU Lambda Association Meeting for lesbian and gay Middle Tennessee State University students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Murfreesboro. 7pm. Info 615-890-3787.
Sober Sisters (Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous) Closed meeting. MCC. 8pm.
Gay Cable Network Viacom Channel 35 (Community Access Television). 9pm.

Wednesdays

Sex Addicts Anonymous Closed meeting for gay men and lesbians. MCC. 5:30pm.
Nashville CARES ARC/AIDS Support Group. 6:30pm. Info 615-385-1510.

Thursdays

Gay Overeaters Anonymous Open meeting for lesbian and gay overeaters. MCC. 5:30pm. Info 615-327-4614.
Nashville CARES Visualization Group. 6:30pm. Info 615-385-1510.
Vanderbilt Lambda Association Meeting for gay and lesbian Vanderbilt students, faculty, staff and alumni. President's House, Peabody Campus, alternates weekly with Film Series (see Special Events). 7pm. Info 615-297-5352.
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

Sex Addicts Anonymous Closed meeting. MCC. 5pm.
Gay Parents Support Group Meeting. MCC. 1st Friday only. 7pm. Info 615-831-2941 or 615-320-0288.
Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group Meeting. Belmont United Methodist. 7:30 pm.

Saturdays

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

Sundays

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

Special Events

Saturday, April 29

Carwash and Yard Sale Benefits the Nashville Numbers softball team. Parking lot of the Chute, 2535 Franklin Rd, Nashville. Info 615-297-4571.

Sunday, April 30

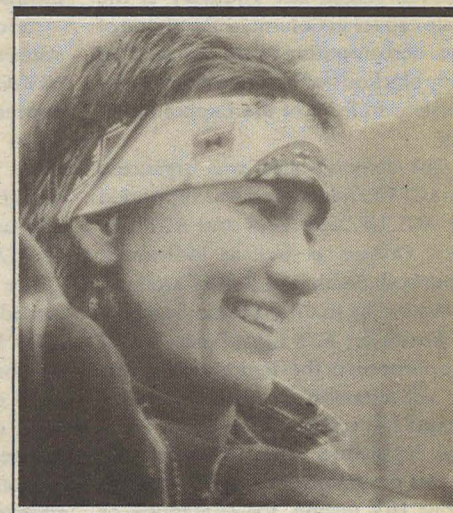
Planning Meeting Meet to plan Nashville Lesbian and Gay Pride Week '89, Nashville. 1pm. Info 615-297-4293.

Monday, May 1

Meeting Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance monthly meeting. Towne House Tea Room, 165 8th Ave North, Nashville. Info 615-297-4293.

Saturday, May 6

Benefit For Nashville Lesbian and Gay Pride Week '89. At Ralph's Rutledge Hill Tavern, 2nd Ave South, Nashville. Info 615-297-4293.



Cris Williamson

Sunday, May 7

Concert Olivia Records artists Cris Williamson and Teresa Trull, War Memorial Auditorium, Nashville. \$16 advance, \$18 at the door. 3pm. Tickets available from Ticketmaster outlets or phone 615-741-2787.

Benefit *Giving You the Best That I've Got*, benefit for National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. At Warehouse 28, 2529 Franklin Rd, Nashville. Door opens 8pm, shows 10:30pm and 12:30pm. Info 615-327-4614.

Saturday, May 13

Flea Market *Spring Cleanup*, to benefit Metropolitan Community Church/Nashville and AIDS/Southern Kentucky (ASK). MCC, 131 15th Ave North, Nashville. Info 615-320-0288.

Your nonprofit event can be listed free in *Dates*. Write to *Dare*, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422, or phone 615 327-3273 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. Deadline noon Tuesday for publication next Friday.

BRIEFS

from STAFF REPORTS

Speaker: ax "homosexual" bank official

JIM WRIGHT, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, tried to get Federal Home Loan Bank Board chair Edwin Gray to fire a savings-and-loan regulator because Wright said the man was gay.

Gray said in testimony before the House ethics committee's Special Outside Counsel Richard J. Phelan that Wright had phoned him in November, 1986, asking him to get rid of the man, identified only as 'Selby'.

"And then I received a call and basically it was another call about the treatment of Texas S&L institutions. And then [Wright] said that he understood that Selby was a homosexual. And he understood from people that he believed... Selby had established a ring of homosexual lawyers in Texas at various law firms, and that in order for people to deal with the Federal Home Loan Bank supervision people, they would have to deal with this ring...He said to me, 'Isn't there anything you can do to get rid of Selby or ask him to leave or something?'" Gray told Phelan, according to Phelan's 279-page report to the Committee.

Phelan's report concluded that "An attempt to destroy the distinguished career of a dedicated public servant because of his rumored sexual orientation or because of a wild accusation hardly reflects creditably on the House," citing House Rule XLIII, clause 1, which provides that "[a] Member...shall conduct himself [sic] at all times in a manner which shall reflect creditably on the House." •

Downey says gay-bashing due to childhood sexual advance

COMBATIVE TABLOID-TELEVISION HOST Morton Downey Jr. told a San Francisco TV station last weekend that he attacks lesbians and gay men because his male doctor made sexual advances to the 12-year-old Downey.

Downey, who admitted in the interview that he has begun to tone down the confrontational nature of his show in order to keep it on the air, downplayed the antigay rhetoric that has helped community groups force him off the air in San Francisco and Los Angeles, saying that "Pressure groups in this country have every right to respond. They have every right to demand that a Morton Downey Jr. show be taken off the air if it doesn't meet their sensibilities."

Many large advertisers have begun to refuse to buy commercial time on the show, according to syndicated television columnist Gary Deeb. •

Military panel recommends anti-bashing training for service members

AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN in the military has recommended that training programs designed to stop sexual harassment against women in the military discourage "unfounded accusations of homosexuality against Service members."

The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service [DACOWITS] issued the recommendations after four military women, two active-duty members facing discharge and two former members who were discharged for their homosexuality, testified during a public-comment period last week. •

School sends crossdressing boys home

SIX BOYS WHO WORE CULOTTES or skirts in protest of their school's dress code were forced to change clothes or were sent home by principal Gary Blocker, who said, "Culottes are for girls. The handbook doesn't say that, but that's what is meant."

Aaron Martinez, an honor roll student at the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, school, began the protest Thursday when he wore culottes to class.

"They're saying we can't wear shorts, but girls can wear skirts that are shorter than shorts, so they're indirectly discriminating against guys," Martinez said. The school's dress code allows culottes, but does not mention that only girls can wear them. •

Fire-and-brimstone preacher sentenced for sex with boys

MARIO "TONY" LEYVA, A GEORGIA-BASED CHRISTIAN evangelist known for his fiery condemnations of sexual "sin," has been convicted in Roanoke, Virginia, of using his revival circuit to recruit boys for sexual purposes. Leyva was sentenced to 20 years in prison by U.S. District Judge James Turk, who called Leyva and two assistants "con artists, liars and cheats," and said that he intended for the men to serve their full terms in prison with no chance of parole.

The itinerant preacher, who his defense team said had a "Jekyll and Hyde personality," admitted molesting over 100 children. The indictment charged that the molestations took place across the South and East, including Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Ohio and Indiana. •

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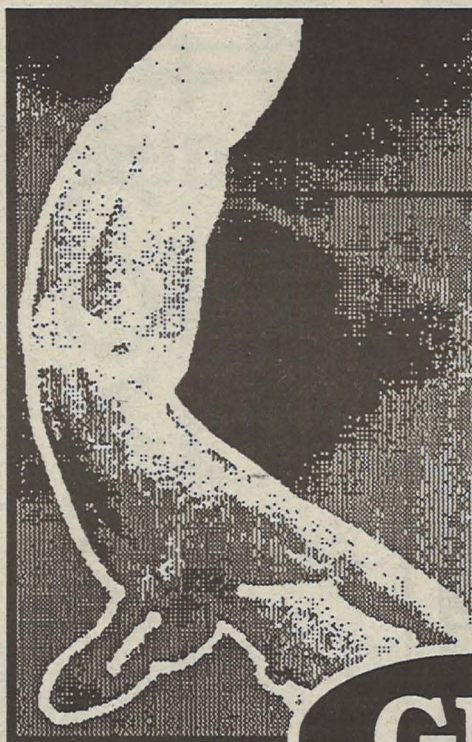
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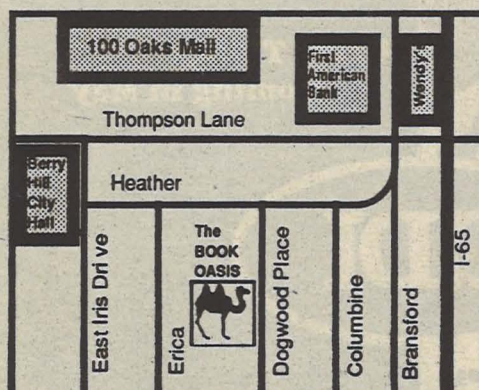
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...South Carolina arrests

• continued from page 1

As Rowan explained, some of the South Carolina residents involved in the demonstration met with their legislators the day before the action for discussions on changing the extreme AIDS laws. He said some of the legislators described the activists as "disgusting" and AIDS as "God's punishment". Rowan and others also met with representatives of the state Department of Health and Environmental Control, who were sensitive to the demands of the group but opposed the tactics of the planned demonstration.

Rowan noted that the demonstration itself did not receive any negative responses. However, the 41 activists were arrested by police officers who wore gloves. Those arrested were charged with failure to obey police and were released after posting bail. According to Rowan, a final decision about trials and pleas of those arrested has not been finalized.

The second objective of the action in South

Carolina was to initiate the development of AIDS-activist groups in South Carolina.

"ACT UP/Atlanta was started by members of ACT UP/New York when they were here for the Democratic Convention last summer and we feel a responsibility to spread activism in the South," said Rowan. "HIV does not stop at state borders and our fight against it does not either."

Rowan feels that the objective to catalyze AIDS activism in the state has been achieved: ACTUP/South Carolina was scheduled to hold its first meeting Wednesday, April 26.

"Our efforts were more than successful — we batted a thousand with this demonstration," Rowan concluded. "We talked about AIDS and about being gay and that's never been done before at the capitol in South Carolina. We focused national attention on the oppressive nature of these laws and we fired up a lot of people in South Carolina who will become AIDS activists." •

...Michaud evaluation

• continued from page 1

In his sentencing order last week, Shriver delayed until May 19 any decision on whether Michaud should be imprisoned or given an alternative sentence. Presumably, he is waiting for psychiatric evaluations before imposing a sentence.

Assistant District Attorney Richard Fisher asked Shriver to impose a three-year sentence for each of the two charges and to make Michaud serve at least 180 days in jail.

Fisher said the other men who have already pleaded guilty to charges stemming from the sting have "recognized their weakness and have conceded to treatment."

Defense attorney Ray last week filed a sentencing memorandum which said that Michaud should not be punished for his "alternative lifestyle."

Shriver responded by saying that "what consenting adults do in the privacy of their own homes perhaps is not this court's business, but society cannot tolerate the misuse of children" for sexual gratification.

The undercover operation was begun in December, 1987, after Carolyn St. Clair, the boy's mother, contacted authorities when she learned her son was involved in prostitution in east Nashville.

During the incident involving Michaud, Tony St. Clair was wired with a body transmitter and tapes of their conversation were introduced as evidence during Michaud's trial.

Defense attorneys have maintained that the use of a minor in such an undercover operation was in itself illegal. It was further argued that Michaud was a victim of entrapment in the affair. •

...Southeastern Conference

• continued from page 1

States Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men," Adams said.

Although attendance from those states was not so high as organizers had hoped, Adams said "we did attract some key people from there who expressed an interest in what the SEC is doing."

Next year's conference will be held in Raleigh, N.C., near the Chapel Hill, N.C., location where the conference was first organized in 1975. Interest in organizing state chapters was expressed by delegates from Georgia, Louisiana and North Carolina, but such a move is impossible under current by-laws.

"It may be necessary to change the bylaws, in order to make the Southeastern Conference important to people in various localities," Adams said.

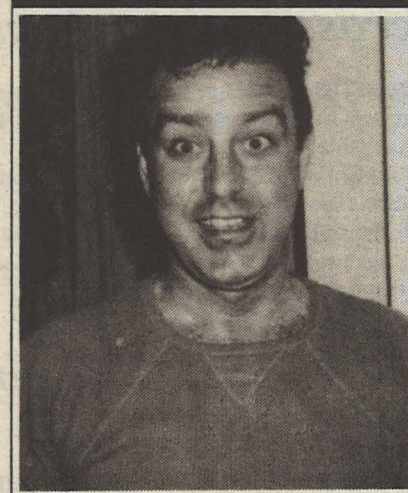
Adams, in the second year of his first three-year term on the Conference's board of directors, said that retiring board member Leland Wyckoff of Mountain Home retained a seat on the SEC Advisory Committee, which serves in an *ad hoc* capacity to advise the board of direc-

tors. Wyckoff will also continue as co-chair of the Conference's fundraising committee.

Memphian Rick Bray also became a member of the Advisory Committee, considered by insiders to be the first step toward a membership on the board of directors.

Gregg Orifici, a student at Vanderbilt Law School, also gave the conference high marks. "We met a lot of wonderful people. It was one of the more enlightening experiences of my life," he said.

Orifici praised conference organizers for providing alternative housing for those participants who wanted it. "I stayed at the PWA [people with AIDS] house, Revlon Apartments. It's still being renovated and needs some work," he said. "It was an incred-



Sam Adams

ible experience."

Participation by Tennesseans in the SEC this year showed a marked increase since 1988, Adams said. Four people attended last year, with approximately 15 Tennesseans taking part this year, including delegates from Memphis, Nashville, Murfreesboro and upper East Tennessee. •

C U R T A I N S

A Streetcar Named Desire

reviewed by **TIM BULLARD**
Contributing Writer

THERE ARE DANGERS INHERENT in seeing, much less reviewing, a play you already know. It is even more dangerous if you admit to loving, yes, loving a certain play. On the one hand, you may uncritically enjoy even a mediocre production. On the other, it's more likely no production will ever measure up to your own preconceived ideas or expectations.

It's worse if you've seen the movie; worse still if it's a classic movie. How can any local production possibly compare well with Vivien Leigh or Marlon Brando? The actors face a two-edged sword: they must do as good a job without doing it in exactly the same way.

Yet Playhouse on the Square's production of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, which opened last Friday should more than satisfy the most ardent (and critical) Williams fan. The show is every bit as steamy and sultry as a New Orleans summer.

Joe Ragey's set, a rundown French Quarter apartment building, could not be better.

Bates Brooks gives a lovely performance as Blanche DuBois, the delicate Southern belle who has outlived her beauty, her money and her era. Unable to cope with her own life's grim realities, she slowly slips into fantasy. In a blond wig and a lacy yellow dress, she flutters nervously about the stage suggesting a butterfly.

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS you notice is that Brooks doesn't have the heavy Mississippi Delta accent usually associated with Blanche. Her drawl is like a natural one, flowing from the ribbons of Williams' own language. She resists the temptation to just do an accent rather than create a real character.

Brooks is at her best in the final act as she glides into an imaginary world, convinced her

old lover Shep Huntleigh is coming to rescue her. She also gives one of the few believable stage performances of someone drunk.

Charles Kevin McCarty is also memorable as the crude, lusty, macho Stanley Kowalski, determined to rid his roost of his unwanted sister-in-law. His accent is northern and blue-collar, and he struts and swaggers about the stage shirtless, wearing his old Army dogtag.

McCarty's portrayal includes a touch of vulnerability not usually found in Stanley. In one particularly touching moment, after one of his wife-beating rages, Stanley buries his face in Stella's skirt, weeping and begging her to come back to him.

Peter Colburn is suitably awkward as Mitch, without being wimpy. He shows surprising rage in his final scene with Blanche.

Rebecca Klingler gives a solid performance as Stella, Blanche's sister who is married to Stanley, but is a bit less focussed and forceful than she might be, although she does make it clear that Stanley is good in bed. She still leaves us wondering why she stays with him and endures physical abuse.

KEN ZIMMERMAN'S DIRECTION maintains the show's sexual tension and energy. Dialogue is clear and well-paced. He remains faithful to Williams' script, not glossing over any unpleasant elements.

For example, watching the movie, you may not understand that Blanche's husband killed himself because of his inability to accept his own homosexuality. The movie audience is left wondering whether or not Stanley forces himself sexually on Blanche in Act Three. Both these elements are clear to anyone who reads the script, and the Playhouse production is faithful to it. •

New productions to open

by **JEFF ELLIS**
Managing Editor

NASHVILLE BALLET will revive its sold-out 1988 production of *Cinderella* next weekend for three shows only, Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6.

Karen Portner and Barry Gager will perform as Cinderella and the Prince, respectively, and newcomers Kathryn Beasley and Luis Caraldi will dance as the fairy godmother and the court jester. Reprising their roles will be Melissa Krantz as a stepsister, Alyce Andrews as the spring fairy and company apprentice Lindsay King as the summer fairy.

The Nashville Symphony Orchestra will accompany the production, conducted by the Chattanooga Symphony's Phillip Rice.

EVITA, the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice opera chronicling the rise from obscurity to the pinnacle of success of Argentina's Eva Peron, will close the season for Nashville-based Tennessee Repertory Theatre.

Ginger Newman, whose soaring soprano has delighted TRT audiences in past performances, will sing the role of Eva in the Steven Kent-directed production. Louis Padilla, last seen as Jesus in TRT's *Jesus Christ Superstar* last season, will return to Nashville in the role of Che.

Myke Mueller will play Juan Peron in the

musical, with Shelean Newman as his mistress.

TRT's *Evita* will be conducted by TRT Music Director Stan Tucker. Dances will be choreographed by Andrew Krichels, co-artistic director of Tennessee Dance Theatre. Nashville architect Earl Swensson will make his stage debut as scenic designer for *Evita*, whose settings range from Eva's village of Junin to the Casa Rosada, the President's home in Buenos Aires.

Evita will run in TPAC's Polk Theatre May 11 through 27.

CIRCUIT PLAYHOUSE in Memphis will present *Hunting Cockroaches*, the story of two Polish émigrés living in New York's lower East Side and their attempts to adapt to American life.

Playwright Janusz Glowacki, whose 1981 novel *Give Us This Day* (about the birth of the trade union Solidarity) was banned in Poland, is an immigrant himself.

Ann Marie Hall, who performed so brilliantly in Circuit's production of *The Mystery of Irma Vep* last fall, will play Anka, an renowned Warsaw classical actress who can't get roles in New York because of her thick accent.

Sidney Lynch will direct. The show will run Fridays through Sundays from May 11 until June 11. For reservations phone (901) 726-4656. •

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Grace Perry
Matt Presley
Den-Eric Smith
Jason Starr
Jaan Sturgis
Bret Taylor
the Rev. Paul Tucker
WKRB in Memphis
Sharon Wray
Debbie Zschokke

and, of course, the audience



Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly

Dare

Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly
From the Heart of the American South

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S O A P B O X

The price of right

by CAROLE CUNNINGHAM

Staff Writer

I REMEMBER AS A CHILD hearing with
utter disbelief my mother's assurance that the
freedom I sought — whether to cross the street
by myself, play after dark, or work after school
— came at a price, and that a time would come
when I would wish I was a child again without
my adult freedom.

Freedom, I thought then, was just that:
"free." The idea that freedom cost something
could be nothing but an adult conspiracy.
Worst of all, said adults to sceptical children,
exercising one freedom often meant giving up
another. Adult choices would be hard and the
stakes high. To my ten-year-old ears this
sounded more like bondage than freedom.

The debate over freedom to choose abor-
tion will take center stage this week before the
Supreme Court for the first time since 1973
when *Roe v. Wade* established the right of
women to legally choose abortion. The
choices will be hard, the stakes high, and there
is little indication that the Justices will hear new
evidence from either side so persuasive as to
make the 1989 decision any easier than it was
in 1973.

Most legal experts say the Court will not
make abortion illegal at the federal level. If a
Roe "reversal" happens, it will happen because
the Court has left the abortion decision in the
hands of state legislatures. So the question
becomes not "what" freedom is at stake but
"who" decides whether
a woman has an abor-
tion: the woman or her
legislature?

Women responding
to this question invari-
ably turn to first-person
narratives; the intimacy
with which an issue
touches our lives sets
the boundaries of the
debate. We hear from
one woman who had an
abortion and is pro-
choice, another who
had an abortion, regrets
it, and is now pro-life.
The legacy of *Roe v. Wade* is that each
woman had her choice

and a life to live after that choice full of her
decision's irrevocable consequence: freedom,
it seems, is full of this sort of common doom.
Damned if you do, and damned if you don't.

That, I suppose, is what my mother meant
when she said I might not like the kind of
freedom I would have as an adult: that the right
to choose your life was frightening and full of
lifetime reconsiderations and regrets. Because
the right to change your mind, to regret, or to
stand fast, is part of the right to free choice too,
a choice no one should compel us to take or
compel us to avoid.

I wonder at those women who had abor-
tions and now support legislation making
abortion illegal, because it smacks of the ap-
proach to freedom my mother implied I
wanted as a child — meaning, "I want freedom
without the consequences and if I might later
change my mind, don't give me freedom, don't
give me choices."

Perhaps the difficulty of the decision makes

the certainty of illegality seductive for some;
the perennial relief of responsibility we expe-
rience when a father figure lays down the law
can be so childishly reassuring.

But like most truth that is sure, but never
free, the truth that few women will forsake in
the interest of state law their present and future
freedom to choose when to be mothers and
when not, will mean some women find their
freedom at the cost of their lives — women
who, without the economic freedom to find
safe abortions, risk their lives at their own
hands or the hands of amateur practitioners.

FREEDOM IS LIKE THAT, too — odds are
that the less you start with, the more you stand
to lose.

The dream I had as a child that freedom
meant making my choice but never paying its
price is a dream this country has fallen prey to
in its reconsideration of the *Roe* decision. Pro-
life proponents think our country can be free
even if the most personal choices in our lives
are proscribed by government. We seem un-
willing to make the choices freedom requires
or pay the price freedom exacts. We want
someone else — our mayor, our minister, the
network censors, the school board — to make
our decisions for us, or to keep us from having
to make any decisions at all.

The Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe* decision
came at time in this country when we better

understood what free-
dom meant, when the
consequences of our
decisions could be
measured by the na-
palm clouds above vil-
lages, the riot police in
the streets, the slayings
of civil rights leaders
who understood that
standing for freedom
might mean falling —
and never standing
again. "Don't worry, be
happy" as a personal or
political creed would
have been unthinkable,
nearly criminal; it cer-
tainly would not have
been "American." Free-

dom then wasn't measured by how little im-
pact our decisions had, but by how much.

IN THE CHILDHOOD and adult world in
which my mother was usually right, she was
wrong about one thing: I don't wish to be a
child again, with my choices made by those
stronger, bigger, taller than me. Knowing free
choice is never "free," I know it's a commodity
no one can afford to take from another without
somehow compromising the very thing, free-
dom, itself.

The longing to be as children again with our
fathers, our gods, or our government making
the most important decisions of our lives for us
belittles freedom and belittles us.

The message *Roe* gave us is not a message
children want to hear, but that's not who the
message was for, because freedom isn't for the
innocent, it is for the experienced, those who
know what freedom means when it is exer-
cised, who know what freedom means when it
is lost. •

*In the childhood
and adult world in
which my mother was
usually right, she
was wrong about one
thing: I don't wish to
be a child again, with
my choices made by
those stronger, bigger,
taller than me.*

PAGES

Being Homosexual

Being Homosexual: Gay Men and Their Development, by Richard A. Isay, M.D. New York: Farrar Strauss Giroux, 1989. 159 pp. \$14.95 hardcover.

reviewed by **JOE MAROHL**
Staff Writer

IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, there have been two highly acclaimed books on the psychological development of homosexual men: *The "Sissy Boy Syndrome" and the Development of Homosexuality* in 1987 and *The Psychoanalytic Theory of Male Homosexuality* last year. Both books, unlike many other approaches to the same subject, were sympathetic, well-reasoned and politically careful.

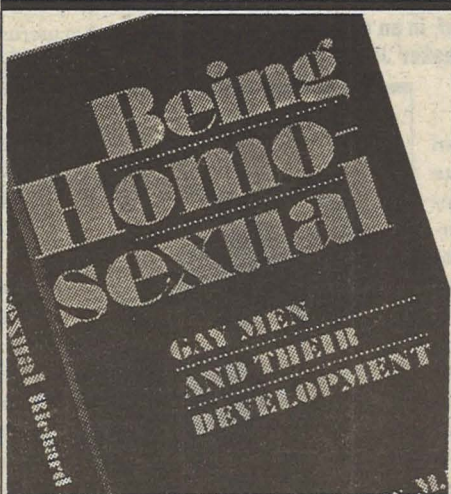
Richard Green's 1987 book was the result of a fifteen-year study and indicated a probable link between effeminacy in childhood (boys who are identified as "sissies") and adult male homosexuality. Green further sought to identify exactly what input parents have into their

sons' sexuality and discovered that father-son relationships are more homogeneous in the experience of homosexual men than were the mother-son relationships (mother being the parent usually "blamed" for a son's homosexual tendencies). Further, not enough similarity exists to indicate that even fathers have significant influence in their sons' eventual sexual orientation.

Kenneth Lewes' 1988 book took a historical approach to the subject, tracing a shift in psychoanalytic attitudes towards male homosexuality from Freud's death to 1982. Lewes' thesis was that after Freud, the mainstream of the psychoanalytic community reverted to pre-Freudian attitudes towards homosexuality in an effort to gain popular acceptance and official respect, and in the process became the most vicious opponent, next to the church perhaps, of tolerance and gay rights.

THIS YEAR, psychiatrist Richard Isay has published a more modest but more accessible book, pursuing similar lines of reason. It is a book that most homosexual people and their friends should greet warmly, as it introduces the subject of male homosexual psychology in a manner that helps the individual better to understand himself and his experience in a tone that is frank, humane and informed, though not overburdened with anecdotes or scholarly references.

Isay's position, as a psychiatrist and practicing psychoanalyst with numerous homosexual clients, is that homosexuality is constitutional, not the product of environment or choice. As philosophically problematic as this position is, Isay considers it to be worthwhile in removing "blame" and "guilt" from the analysis.



He argues that some children experience a parallel to the Oedipal stage at about the same age as children who later develop heterosexual orientations: about four or five years of age. Parents, particularly fathers, respond to this change in ways that may be damaging to or supportive of the child's ego, though usually the son's "seduction" of the father is greeted with withdrawal (i.e., the traditionally distant or weak father-figure in early psychoanalytic treatises on male homosexuality).

Like Lewes, Isay argues persuasively against the idea that homosexuality is a perversion or psychological disorder. Disorders frequently associated with homosexual behavior are usually related more to negative social pressures than to orientation and may, in fact, not be disorders at all.

FOR INSTANCE, HE ARGUES that heterosexual men are no less prone to be promiscuous than homosexual men, but are more likely to be susceptible to cultural taboos which enforce monogamy. The widespread belief that homosexuals are usually neurotic is based on a naïvely inadequate concept of the pervasiveness of homosexuality in society.

He argues that heterosexual men are no less prone to be promiscuous than homosexual men, but are more likely to be susceptible to cultural taboos which enforce monogamy.

There are nine divisions in *Being Homosexual*. Perhaps most interesting to readers will be the early chapters on childhood. Many readers will wish that Isay had presented a more coherent and detailed theory of homosexual development along the lines of Freud's Oedipal stage.

Unlike Lewes, Isay does not clearly identify homosexuality as another possible outcome of the Oedipal period.

Does he mean, then, to suggest that pre-homosexual boys experience something only analogous to but constitutionally different from the Oedipus complex? Say, for instance, a "Ganymede complex"? Isay's position in this matter was, it seemed to me unnecessarily vague, though perhaps he wanted to avoid raising any issues that would complicate his point further.

I should add that the book is careful not to suggest that the psychological development of homosexual men should be studied in order to "cure" or "prevent" homosexuality. Instead, Isay raises issues which are meant to encourage self-examination and healthful adjustment to one's experience and one's own sense of value and dignity, and secondarily, when it is ready, to society. •

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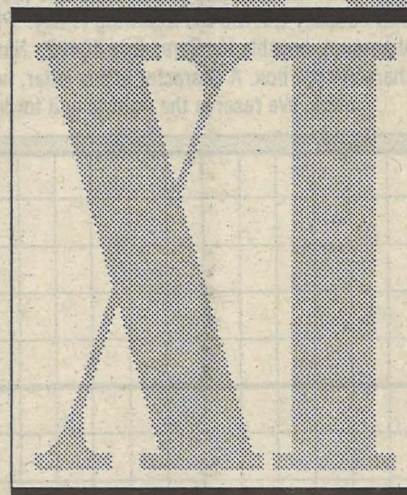
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• Thank Goddess she's finally finished. Now if she'll just go ahead and graduate, we can all go back in our closets. Ah, the sweet smell of cedar.

• Congratulations to all the Boys in the Band for a terrific show. Can't wait till next time!

• Cathy adores a minuet, the Ballets Russes and crêpes Suzettes, but Patty loves to rock 'n' roll — a hot dog makes her lose control. What a wild duet!

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QUOTES

Talking about it

"...We are less surprised but even more informed by the behavior the committee has condoned.

"All present and future Members of Congress have just been instructed as follows: It's entirely ethical to block needed legislation until a regulatory agency does favors for your friends. It's also ethical to try to get agencies to fire employees who are tough with your political contributors, even if that means spreading accusations of homosexuality."

— *The Wall Street Journal*, in an editorial condemning U.S. House Speaker Jim Wright (D-Texas).

"As an African-American clergyman and a non-white woman minister, we cannot acquiesce to his assertions which parallel white racists' historical misuse of Biblical passages — namely Genesis 9:27, 11:1-9 and Ephesians 6:5 — to justify slavery and to discriminate against generations of African-Americans from entering educational institutions like Vanderbilt.

White South Africans conveniently use the same Biblical passages to oppress black South Africans. And now, the Bible is being targeted against another group — gays, bisexuals and lesbians.

"...If we are to use the Bible as a basis for argument, we are offended when scripture is used to label an entire population as sinful and to deny them fair treatment. To use scripture to oppress anyone is diametrically opposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ — a gospel of love that he proclaimed would 'bring deliverance to the oppressed.' God is a God of the oppressed and does not condemn someone for loving another human being."

— *Mona Bagasco-Crane and Horace Griffin*, in a letter to the editor of the *Vanderbilt Hustler*, on criticism of attempts to add sexual orientation to the school's antidiscrimination policy.

"Jesus Would Be Marching, Too!"
— *A sign seen at the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.*

"I was quoted as saying that 'AIDS is primarily a biological event without theological or social significance...and has no religious or sociopolitical meaning.' This quotation is from a section in the chapter where I am discussing the transmission of the AIDS virus.

"The remainder of the chapter concerns the fact that society and individuals have given social, theological, and political meaning to AIDS as the disease has touched so many lives and has had such significant impact on American society.

"This meaning, I go on to say, has motivated many people to deal with the epidemic in constructive ways (e.g., becoming AIDS volunteers). The point is that the appearance of the AIDS virus is a biological event, but the meaning humans give to this disease indeed has social implications.

"I would recommend more complete and more accurate reporting about AIDS in the future."

— *A. Gene Copello*, director of the *Vanderbilt AIDS Project*, in a letter to the editor of the *Nashville Banner* correcting the paper's coverage of churches' response to AIDS.

"Do you realize that this procedure is the only procedure in the state of Tennessee that requires the consent of both parents? A teenager can have open-heart surgery, brain surgery or her leg amputated, all with the consent of one parent.

"Go near that uterus and the law goes crazy."

— *Martha McDonald*, a Memphis internist, in testimony before the Tennessee House Welfare Committee on the state's parental-consent-for-abortion law.

"It is interesting to wonder if Judge George Hampton of Dallas would have given the same sentence to Richard Lee Bednarski, had his murder victims, instead of being homosexuals, been heterosexuals cheating on their wives.

"What a shame that society and certain religious leaders are so quick to condemn some folks while ostensibly excusing others."

— *Susan B. Hayes*, in a letter to the editor of the *Nashville Tennessean*.

"Why do gay people go to gay bars?"

"Usually because these are the only places where we can be ourselves and not be physically threatened and attacked, or emotionally harassed. Overall, gay bars are the only 'safe' place to meet, dance and associate. It is incredible and embarrassing to me, to most of my friends and hopefully, to most of our society; that this fear and that that such a state persists.

"As David Scondras, Boston's first openly gay City Councillor, expressed in his address to last weekend's Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men, a gay bar should be any place that plays good music. A gay restaurant — any place that serves good food, etc. Lesbians and gay men go everywhere or have the right legally to go everywhere. We should feel safe and comfortable and welcome — clapping hands above the table when moved to do so — everywhere. To this end, every bar should be a gay one.

"As for my gay-sensitive and supportive friends, please come to our aid. Socially and politically. Come out against all prejudice and discrimination. Counter homophobia wherever present. Define it as repulsive and unacceptable."

— *Gregg Orifici*, third-year law student and columnist, in a *Vanderbilt Hustler* column detailing his experiences at the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men in Dallas.

"Just as Selma began the fight over racial issues, we believe the South can be the place for us. New York and California are targeting Tennessee as the first state to turn around the sodomy laws."

— *Sam Adams*, longtime Nashville activist, in a *Nashville Banner* story about the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men. •

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