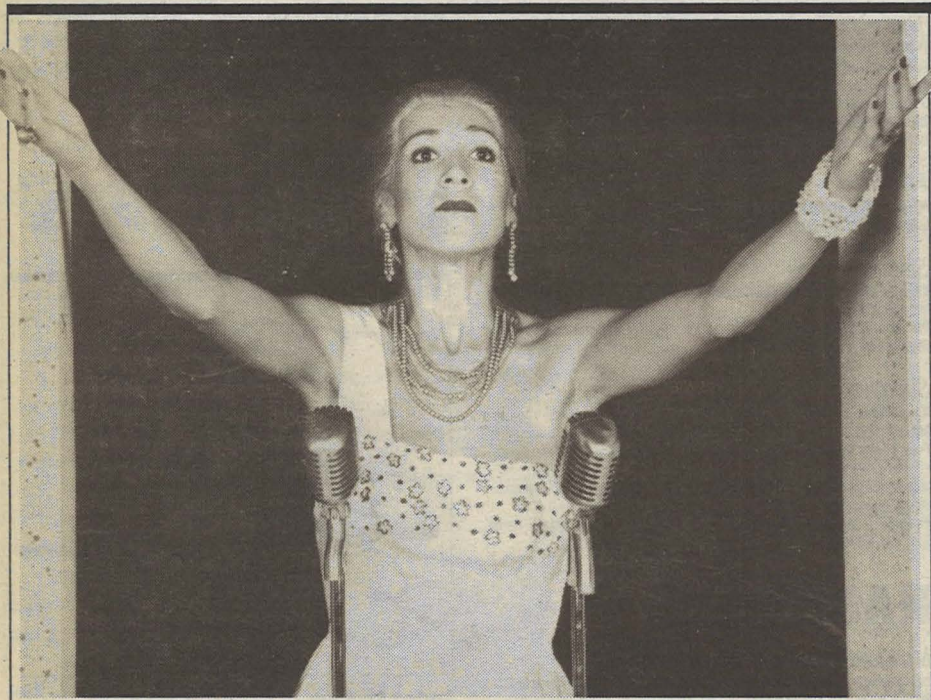


# Dare

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 18

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

MAY 5—11, 1989



Ginger Newman as Eva Perón, accepts Argentina's cheers in Tennessee Repertory Theatre's production of the Tony-award-winning musical *Evita*, at Nashville's Tennessee Performing Arts Center. — PHOTO BY RHEA RIPPEY

## Jury quizzed about attitudes toward homosexuality

by JEFF ELLIS  
Managing Editor

Prospective jurors in the Nashville federal court obscenity trial of a Chicago adult film distributor and a New York film director are being quizzed about their attitudes toward homosexuality and anal intercourse.

Steve Toushin, accused of running one of the nation's largest mail-order pornography businesses from his Chicago theater, and David Rosen, a film director from New Windsor, N.Y., are charged in a federal indictment with aiding and abetting the national distribution of pornographic materials through the U.S. mail.

Some 48 middle Tennesseans are being questioned by both prosecuting and defense attorneys as jury selection gets underway. During Monday's opening session, U.S. District Judge John T. Nixon asked the prospective jurors to complete a 42-page questionnaire designed to gauge their attitudes about sexually-explicit material, homosexuality and cable television service.

The 12 jurors selected from the 48-person pool will be required to watch videotapes of movies which federal prosecutors say are obscene in their depiction of sado-masochistic acts between gay men. The movies,  
• continued on page 3

## "Live grenade" politician sues San Francisco gay paper

by STUART BIVIN  
Editor

Antigay U.S. Representative William Dannemeyer (R-Orange County, Calif.) has sued the *Bay Area Reporter* (BAR), a San Francisco lesbian and gay newspaper, for libel because BAR reprinted a memo exploring how the Republican party could capitalize on the AIDS pandemic for political gain.

Dannemeyer is widely known for his opposition to lesbian, gay and AIDS rights legislation. His appearance before the Presidential AIDS Commission in Nashville last March was picketed by ACT UP/Nashville (AIDS Coalition

to Unleash Power).

The Charleston Research Group (CRG) memo said that Dannemeyer was "foaming at the mouth," "a live grenade" and "far too emotional to do any good" for the Republican Party on AIDS issues. CRG is a Republican consulting firm run by Charles Rund, Ronald Reagan's 1984 deputy campaign manager.

BAR is represented in the case by National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), a San Francisco-based public interest law firm.

"The First Amendment and California law protect the right of newspapers to report freely  
• continued on page 3

## New Tennessee "pro-family" group attacks lesbian, gay rights

by JEFF ELLIS  
Managing Editor

Seeking to turn back legislation and social mores perceived to be pornographic, pro-homosexual and pro-abortion, organizers of the Tennessee Coalition for Traditional Values (TCTV) last weekend met in Nashville to mount their campaign.

TCTV wants to build a statewide network of Christians to register voters, stay abreast of legislation and lobby state and federal lawmakers to ensure that their anti-gay, anti-abortion rights, pro-family stands are not defeated.

"We want to build a mighty engine for God's glory," Thomas Cummings Jr., chair of the coalition, said during the first training session for about 250 church leaders. "We want to return this country to its biblical and moral foundations."

Cummings' remarks set the tone for the gathering designed to re-establish America's biblical heritage, which delegates claimed has been eroded by a "secular humanist minority" that has forced its godless morals on the majority.

TCTV's first goal, organizers said, will be to fight hardcore pornography on the state and local level. The Saturday meeting followed a Friday meeting of the recently-formed Nashville Coalition Against Pornography (NCAP) during which Jerry Kirk, founder of the National Coalition Against Pornography, called for an attack on "hardcore, violent, degrading, humiliating" pornography.

"Most of you are just as concerned about

softcore porn, but if you try to focus on everything, you will divide Nashville," Kirk, a Cincinnati, Ohio, minister, said. "A lot of people are not sure where they stand on softcore porn, but they are sure about hardcore porn."

NCAP chair Joe Rodgers, former ambassador to France and Republican party stalwart, addressed the TCTV meeting, asking that group to join in the fight against pornography.

"This is something everybody can get behind. It has become clear that there is a direct tie between hardcore illegal pornography and violent sex crimes. This is not censorship. We're not talking about soft porn but the hardcore stuff that is illegal and not protected by the First Amendment," Rodgers said.

Usually considered "softcore" are magazines, videotapes and movies depicting sexually explicit behavior, including *Blueboy* and *Advocate Men*. Materials considered "hardcore" are those which depict extremely graphic sexual acts or "deviant" sexual behavior such as pedophilia or bestiality.

"In hardcore porn, less than 7% deals with vaginal intercourse," Kirk said. "Less than 5% deals with vaginal intercourse between one man and one woman — and they aren't married."

Rodgers told Saturday's gathering that he believes illegal pornography could be eradicated within 18 months, if a groundswell of public opinion dictates such action. He also seized the opportunity to make a plea for donations to NCAP, which says it needs  
• continued on page 3

## I N S I D E

this week's Dare

A spectacle happens waaaaay off Broadway: *Les Misérables*, *Curtains*, page 4.



Poetry worth reading: *In and Out*, *Pages*, page 7.



Takes two hands, does it, Rita Mae? *Quotes*, page 8.





14<sup>TH</sup>

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

Altazor

Jennifer Berezan

BETTY

Blazing Redheads

Blue Rose

Casselberry & DuPree

Dance Brigade

Dianne Davidson

Disappear Fear

Ferron

Robin Flower

& Libby McLaren

Mimi Fox

Kay Gardner & Sunwomyn

Ensemble

Julie Homi

Jane's Aire

Katari Taiko

Klez—meydlekh

Ladygourd Sangoma

Libana

Margaret Sloan-Hunter

Jude Narita

Laura Nyro

Ova

Over Our Heads

Pat Parker

Ruth Pelham

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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 615-327-4614.

Nashville CARES

HIV+ Education/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.

Al-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.

Seber 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

Inccest Survivors Anonymous

Closed women's meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd. 6:30pm.

Nashville CARES

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 615-831-2941 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.

Inccest Survivors Anonymous

Open meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd. 5:30pm.

Metropolitan Community Church

Community Dinner, all you can eat. 7:30pm. \$5. Info 615-320-0288.

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, May 6

Community Meeting

Organizational meeting and election of board of directors for Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Open to the public. At Agape New Life Church, 405 North Cleveland, Suite #3, Memphis. 1pm. Free. Info 901-324-GAYS.

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.

Monday, May 8

Consciousness Raising

Black and White Men Together, Memphis. 7:30pm. Free. Info 901-726-1461.

Spring Cleanup

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.

Women's Dance

May Dance, Laurel Theatre, 1538 Laurel Ave, Knoxville. Set-ups, beer available. \$4 admission. 8pm. Info 615-688-3428.

Sunday, May 14

Meeting

Planning meeting for Nashville Pride Week '89. 1pm. Free. Info 615-297-4293.

Fundraiser

For Nashville Numbers softball team. Shows 10:30pm and midnight. At The Chute, 2535 Franklin Rd, Nashville. Info 615-297-4571.

Monday, May 15

Meeting

Planning meeting for those interested in the Southern Women's Music and Comedy Festival (begins Friday, May 26). Centennial Park Bandshell, off West End Ave at 25th Ave North, Nashville. 6pm. Free. Info 615-292-0113.

Consciousness Raising

Black and White Men Together, Memphis. 7:30pm. Free. Info 901-726-1461.

GayRap

Gay Pride '89, the 20th Anniversary of Stonewall, discussion. At Memphis Public Library, Peabody and McLean, Meeting Rm A, Memphis. Free. Info 901-324-GAYS.

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



## ...new anti-gay group

• continued from page 1

\$300,000 for its 18-month effort.

Other speakers bemoaned the trend toward secular humanism in textbooks and legislation and vowed to do battle with state officials over the topics.

Members of the TCTV all-male board of directors, in addition to Cummings, who is

owner of Cummings, Inc., include: Don Finto of Belmont Church; Steve Flatt of Madison Church of Christ; Robert Hammer of Temple Baptist Church; Charles McGowan of Christ Presbyterian Church; Jerry Sutton of Two Rivers Baptist Church; and business people Thomas Singleton, Devaughn Woods and James Stadler. •

## ...Nashville porn trial

• continued from page 1

distributed by Tushin's Slave and Master Video Inc. and Entertainment and Amusement Inc., include *You Said a Mouthful* and *Please Sir*.

Information gleaned from the 42-page questionnaire will enable attorneys to choose qualified jurors, according to Nixon.

"The information gathered by the questionnaire will be held in confidence, only for the court and the attorneys, and not made public," Nixon said.

Among questions included:

- Do you have strong religious, moral or personal convictions about homosexuality?

- Should videotapes depicting "consenting adult men having intercourse with other men" be banned from sale to adults?

- Have you attended a movie theater showing X-rated films?

Prospective jurors will also be questioned by defense attorneys in judge's chambers, but details of that questioning will not be made public.

Charges against Rosen and Tushin resulted from a 1985 complaint filed by the late Richard Kemp of Nashville, who told

postal inspectors he had received flyers from Tushin's mail-order business on at least two occasions.

Complaints filed some time later in Salt Lake City, Utah, against Tushin's business prompted postal inspectors there to contact local authorities who, in turn, ordered videotapes from the mail-order departments of the two Chicago-based business, headquartered in the Bijou Theatre.

Inspectors set up a post office box in Brentwood, a Nashville suburb, and ordered

the videotapes. After receiving the tapes, inspectors traveled to Chicago and raided the Bijou Theatre. The action came after federal authorities cracked down on pornography operations in eight states in an investigation called Project Postporn, begin in 1987.

Local sources have told *Dare* that Kemp, who lived in the heavily-gay gentrifying east Nashville Edgefield neighborhood was "extremely ill" at the time the complaints were filed. It is believed that his sister, with whom he was staying during his illness, intercepted his mail and filed the complaints on her brother's behalf.

"Apparently Kemp's name was on some sort of gay mailing list which Tushin bought to use

for distributing his flyers," said Nashville attorney Don Dawson, defense counsel for Rosen.

Last October Tushin was convicted of tax evasion by a Chicago jury. An Internal Revenue Service agent characterized the theater as "a combination adult theater and gay orgy room."

According to Chicago reports, the Bijou has been raided for selling possibly pornographic materials but not for on-site "lewd

and lascivious conduct," a common charge against adult theatres, especially those that show films depicting homosexual acts.

The Bijou does attract a sizable gay clientele, Chicago sources say, despite the fact that Tushin is allegedly heterosexual.

Also charged are Tushin's associates Randy Larsen and Sean O'Connor.

If found guilty of violating federal obscenity laws, the defendants face a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a possible \$250,000 fine on each of the counts. •

## ...Dannemeyer sues gay paper

• continued from page 1

on public figures. This suit is patently frivolous and we expect the court to throw it out," said Eli W. Gould, leader of the NGR defense team.

Both the *New York Times* and the Associated Press covered the same story, prompting charges that Dannemeyer had singled out BAR because it is a gay paper. BAR publisher Bob

Ross said, "This suit was filed to intimidate us because the BAR is a gay paper. Well, it won't work; we'll fight this all the way. We intend to have thorough coverage of Congressman Dannemeyer's activities."

Asked if it is libelous to say that Dannemeyer was "foaming at the mouth," NGR Legal Director Leonard Graff said, "Truth is an absolute defense to a charge of libel." •

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## Les Misérables

by JEFF ELLIS  
Managing Editor

**LES MISÉRABLES IS PROBABLY** the most stunning theatrical event of this, or any other, generation.

But the list of superlatives usually employed by a theater critic to review a production becomes meaningless and insignificant when referring to the musical masterpiece that is *Les Miz*. Everything you could have possibly heard about the show is true: it is an involving, almost stupefying experience, a theater happening of epic proportions.

The touring company, which Tuesday night opened an eight-performance run in the Tennessee Performing Arts Center's Jackson Hall, brings the multiple-award-winning, multi-million dollar production to brilliant life, rivaling Broadway's best with their Nashville performance.

By now the story of *Les Misérables* should be well-known, certainly to every French schoolchild, but also to everyone in this country who has ever read, or seen a filmed version, of Victor Hugo's book.

At the center of the story is Jean Valjean (performed by Gary Barker in an emotionally-charged, sensitive characterization that elicits his audience's warmth and affection), a Frenchman who is finally released from 19 years on a chain-gang — imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his sister's starving baby. Finally, released from prison, Valjean is faced with the bigotry and distrust brought

about by his status as an ex-convict. Thanks to the kind intervention of the Bishop of Digne, he is given another chance in life, adopting an alias and becoming a prosperous factory owner and mayor of the seaport city of Montreuil.

**PURSUED THROUGH** the years by the dastardly Inspector Javert (played by Peter Samuel with layers of shading to delineate the character from the one-note villain he could have been in the hands of a lesser actor), Valjean falls prey once again to Javert's machinations when he rushes to the aid of an injured peasant. He steals away from Javert in order to fulfill the death-bed wish of Fantine (a young woman who had worked in his factory) to rescue her daughter, Cosette, from the hands of her guardians, the Thenardiers.

Valjean raises Cosette as his own daughter and, in 1832 Paris, realizes she is a woman in love with the fiery revolutionary Marius.

Valjean, Javert, Cosette, Marius, the Thenardiers, and other characters are thrust violently into the second French revolution, bringing the plot to its riveting climax on the barricades.



Gary Barker as Jean Valjean — P

## Tennessee Rep to

by JEFF ELLIS  
Managing Editor

**THERE IS A SONG** in the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice opera, *Evita*, called "Rainbow High" which tells of the preparations for Eva Peron's European tour.

Eva is surrounded by hairdressers and couturiers whom she tells "I have to be thrilling, I want to be rainbow high... in magical colors." And, following the orders of one of the world's most powerful women, they oblige, giving Europe a stunning view of post-war South American excess.

The preparations associated with Eva Peron's European tour, however, are nothing compared with Tennessee Repertory Theatre's efforts to bring *Evita* to the stage next week.

With opening night less than a week away, Ginger Newman and Louis Padilla, along with the rest of the ensemble, are putting the finishing touches on their performances, guaranteeing mid-state theater audiences a magical experience.

Newman, who will sing the role of Eva, and Padilla, who will sing the role of Che, both admitted that as time approaches for the opening night curtain they are both getting a little nervous.

"I get so nervous, I can hardly think," Newman said. "But the moment the show begins, the nervousness is gone and that moment takes us."

Padilla, nursing a case of the flu, admitted that his main concern is just being healthy by next Thursday: "I'm scared just because I've

been sick for a few days and I worry about whether I'll lose my voice just before the show. So I tell the doctors, just give me some antibiotics, please!"

Newman and Padilla, both playing the roles for the first time, are approaching *Evita* much as students approach an final exam. They study their lines, the music, listen to the director's notes and apparently read anything about Eva Peron they can get their hands on.

"**I CAN'T TELL YOU** how excited I am to be doing this role," Newman said. "I've wanted to do this role since I first heard about the musical when I was a senior in high school. But what I've learned is that in order to do Eva, you need to have some age, some experience on you to do her justice."

Padilla, in his fourth production of *Evita*, will for the first time play Che, who serves as a sort of Greek chorus to offer comments on the musical's action. Before he has always been cast as Magaldi, the Argentine singer who takes Eva away from her village of Junin.

"I've never been considered for Che before because I've never had a beard before," Padilla said. "I couldn't get people to consider me for Che although I had understudied Mandy Patinkin (who originated the role of Che on Broadway)."

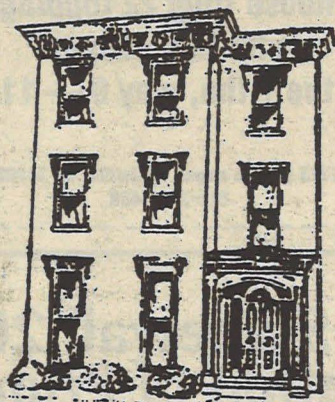
Nevertheless, the two find themselves in thrall of the legend of Eva Peron, considered one of the world's most powerful women at a time when women in power were virtually non-existent. Raised as the fourth of five illegitimate children of a peasant woman, Eva Duarte knew first hand of the classist society

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# Misérables

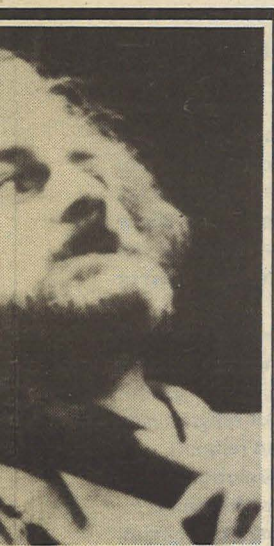


PHOTO COURTESY TPAC

*Les Miz*, though termed a "rock opera" by some, is an amazing amalgam of music, lyrics and acting — the term rock opera does not do justice to the show's scope. Certainly some of the music is rock-tinged, but it transcends rock music's limitations and its somewhat dated sound. Instead, the music in *Les Miz* is timeless and melodic, conquering mind and heart alike with its recurring themes and almost frighteningly sweet refrains.

**THE SCORE** — with music by Claude-Michel Schönberg and lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer — is beautiful, at times lush and romantic, at others foreboding and powerful; in essence, a musical dream. It is a perfect blending of words and music.

This blending is perhaps best exemplified in the mesmerizing "I Dreamed a Dream," sung by Christy Baron as Fantine in Act One, "On My Own," sung by Michele Maika as Eponine in Act Two, "Bring Him Home," sung by Gary Barker as Jean Valjean in Act Two and the rousing finale performed by the entire company (which includes the lyric "To love an-

other person is to see the face of God")

Baron's Fantine is lovely and hopeful, cynical and selfless at the same time. Her lovely voice is filled with emotion as she sings of her lost dreams.

Maika's Eponine is spirited and cunning, artfully disguising her pure heart. Her voice is touching and melancholy during "On My Own," although she seemed to rush her lyrics, denying the audience enough time to appreciate the song.

**THE STAGING IS** phenomenal: the revolving stage enables the production to be viewed in this video age almost as a movie, with each scene flowing into the next with seamless grace. John Napier's set is almost entrancing, all manner of things brought together to form anything the imagination allows.

The two scenes which stand out in one's mind both come in Act Two: the limp bodies of the dead students strewn about the barricades in a macabre, yet oddly fascinating, tableau of death; and Javert's suicide leap into the teeming waters of the River Seine. Both scenes were chilling — that they took place on stage, unbelievable.

If you never see another stage production, you should really see *Les Misérables*. It takes the imagination to such heights that it startles you. You will be amazed. You will be moved.

*Les Misérables* will continue its Nashville run through Sunday, May 7, with the company appearing next month at the Orpheum in Memphis. •

## to stage Evita

that was, and possibly still is, Argentina.

**"EVA IS FASCINATING.** You either love her or you hate her. I know how I feel about her, but I like for the audience to decide for themselves how they feel. I don't want them coming in with a preconceived notion about her," Newman said.

According to Newman, Eva Peron was very much "an '80s kind of woman, incredibly ahead of her time."

And why is her story so appealing?

"Because she used the power she had to do the things she wanted to do. Wouldn't everyone like to do that? Wouldn't you?" Padilla asked. "I would love to gain power and use it to give more funds for AIDS research. The story of someone actually doing something like that is incredibly appealing."

"Eva went from someone who was starving to someone who could have anything, yet she remained very dedicated to the poor people of Argentina," Newman said.

And Padilla, in Tennessee for the run of the show after a successful performance last year in TRT's *Jesus Christ Superstar*, related a story of apartment hunting in New York City — and feeling the influence of Eva Peron some 30 years after her death from cancer in 1952.

"I was looking at an apartment and the woman asked me what I did. I told her I was an actor and I had a two-day break from *Evita*. She said, 'No one knows the real story of Evita. But I do, I was her best friend.'" Padilla recounted.

The woman told of her friendship with Eva during Juan Peron's tenure as president of Argentina. The woman, a member of the dip-

lomatic corps, spoke of Eva's kindness and generosity — traits somehow forgotten by authors and historians.

"She was a dichotomous character. She loved the poor but hated the rich," Newman said.

Their passion for Eva notwithstanding, how do the two see the production shaping up?

"Steven Kent is an amazing director and this ensemble is absolutely wonderful," Padilla said. "People don't always realize that the ensemble is what makes this show a success. Sure Eva, Che and Peron are wonderfully written, but the people in the ensemble have the hardest jobs."

**"THIS IS A TOUGH JOB,"** Newman said. Her character must age from 15 to 32 during the course of the show, a metamorphosis brought about by wigs, costumes and make-up. "Her aging is not really a vocal issue, but more an attitude or acting issue."

And Padilla's impression of Newman's Eva? "She's wonderful! She's the fourth Eva I've worked with and she's by far the best. She has a wonderful voice and Steve is now tapping into her acting abilities," he said.

*Evita* opens in TPAC's Polk Theater on May 11, with additional 8 p.m. performances set for May 12, 13, 18-20, and 24-27. Sunday matinees are scheduled for May 14 and 21.

Tickets, ranging in price from \$14.50 to \$22.50, are on sale at all CentraTik and Ticketmaster outlets, Sound Shop Records, Dillards, Tower Records and Books and Turtles Records. Tickets may also be obtained by calling (615) 320-7172 or (615) 741-2787. •

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## VIEWS

### Traditional despotism

**FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR** to France and Republican bigwig Joe Rodgers and others have formed the Tennessee Coalition for Traditional Values (TCTV). Their goal: to stamp out a host of "evils," including such things as pornography, abortion and homosexuality.

TCTV is a dangerous group. They seek to void Constitutional freedoms and human rights. Their goals share a frightening similarity: to impose their brand of "Christianity" on all of us, whether we are Christian or not.

There's a vile odor that rises from the attempt, bringing with it the clear memory of other despotic movements in history.

They march behind triplet banners of decency, morality and patriotism, but trip over their simpleminded view. Their zeal to impose their religion on others, on everyone else, leads them to ignore the very idealistic founda-

tion of our Constitution, and that is freedom.

There are no easy answers to questions of ethics and morality. But that is just the trap Rodgers and company fall into. They would rather shout slogans than explore possible answers. They would rather call names and lay blame than seek solutions. They would rather cram their own religious views down all our throats than allow every citizen to make her or his own choice.

**OUR NATION WAS** founded on the idea of pluralism, of each one deciding for herself or himself. TCTV has forgotten that Constitutional guarantees of freedom of religion also necessarily mean freedom from religion.

They brandish the bible like a club and Jesus would be horrified that they use his name.

TCTV members need to go back to the book they claim to live by. And actually read it. •

## BRIEFS

from STAFF REPORTS

### Gay/les science fiction fans to gather

**THE GAYLACTIC NETWORK**, an "international organization for gay people and their friends," will gather at the 47th World Science Fiction convention, Noreascon, in Boston over Labor Day weekend.

Organizers said that the group will sponsor 3 to 5 programs with homosexual and bisexual themes at the convention. Previous conventions have dealt with such subjects as "Vampires and Homoeroticism," "Gay Science Fiction and Political Correctness" and "Faerie Tales: Gay People in Fantasy Literature."

For more information on the Gaylactic Network or the convention, write Franklin Hummel, Box 1051, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117-1051. •

### Lesbian author speaks in Clarksville

**RITA MAE BROWN**, AUTHOR of *Rubyfruit Jungle*, spoke at Austin Peay State University's Clement Auditorium last Thursday as part of the Visiting Writers Series. The series is sponsored by APSU's Center for the Creative Arts.

Seventy-five people attended an afternoon seminar presented by Brown on campus, while between 400 and 450 heard the author speak Thursday evening, according to Malcolm Glass, professor in the school's department of languages and literature and director of the creative writing program for the Center.

"We got a lot of strong positive response. It seemed to be quite a success. Rita Mae Brown had such charisma and rapport with the audience," Glass said.

Poet Sharon Olds is one of those the Series hopes to bring to speak next fall, although Glass said that the schedule is not yet firm. •

### Pennsylvania attorney-general sets anti-discrimination policy

**PENNSYLVANIA ATTORNEY-GENERAL** Ernie Preate has instituted a policy forbidding discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation for employees of his office. The Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force (PLGTF) announced the decision after a meeting with Preate.

PLGTF also made a number of recommendations to the attorney-general, including the establishment of a commission to study antigay violence and sexual-orientation discrimination. "[The attorney-general has been] extremely cooperative...[his commitment is] a positive step by a major public official," said PLGTF co-chair Larry Gross. •

### Human-rights legislation progresses

**IOWA'S HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES** has passed by a 78-18 vote hate crimes legislation including reporting for crimes based on sexual orientation. The bill was sponsored by state Rep. Tom Jochum (D-Dubuque), who has led the fight to pass Iowa's lesbian and gay civil rights bill, and increases penalties for crimes committed because of race, religion, ethnic background, political affiliation, membership or nonmembership in labor unions or sexual orientation.

"This is society's response to those who are so consumed by hatred that they would do violence to the very thing that every one of us believes in — and that is freedom," Jochum said.

**MEANWHILE, THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATE** will get a bill passed by the state's House last month that adds sexual orientation to the list of those protected under the state's civil rights law. The bill has been introduced every since 1973. •



## PAGES

**In and Out: A Confessional Poem**

*In and Out: A Confessional Poem*, by Daryl Hine. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989. 288 pp. \$19.95 hardcover.  
reviewed by **KEVIN SOUZA**  
Special to Dare

**HOW MANY OF US** have tried to overcome nature with a hoe (or a bulldozer if we were feeling particularly butch), only to stand and watch it grow in on us again. This time, exhausted from the previous excavation, we allow the persistent foliage to grow and blossom into the strange and beautiful Passiflora, the lavender Passion-Flower. Allowed to reach maturity, the Passion-Flower grows and ripens into a large yellow fruit; its soft flesh can nourish the body. Hopefully we learn to appreciate and incorporate nature's Passion-Flower into our gardens.

When the narrator of Daryl Hine's new autobiographical book-length poem, *In and Out*, is asked if he is "homosexual" by his college friend Hyacinth, he replies that he is "hopefully gay." This confession comes after a year of exploring the nature of his life, finding and excavating the Passion-Flower from his garden with the hoe of Catholicism and finally realizing that the roots cannot be destroyed. It grows back stronger than before. He allows the delicate vine to wind its way around him, take root in his brain and blossom in his heart.

**HINE CHOSE A QUOTATION** from Horace as the epigraph for his work: *Naturam furca expelles, tamen usque recurret*. "Although you may drive away nature by means of a pitchfork, she nevertheless will return all the way." This theme is the all-too-common experience for many lesbians and gay men.

Discovering our lavender intentions we set upon the laborious task of hoeing them out of our lives, often dedicating ourselves to any number of vocations. Focusing on new disciplines, we hope to gain control over this strangely alluring vine infiltrating our garden. Fortunately, nature usually wins, and during this struggle to overcome our sexuality we become stronger, wiser and more understanding of human nature. If we are lucky we find that the interests we so intensely cultivated in place of our sexuality can coexist in harmony with it, and are often made stronger by it.

At the beginning of *In and Out* the narrator explores his feelings for a youth named Mark whom he describes as a "delicate shoot." The relationship, which develops during the brisk, colorful days of a Canadian autumn, and is consummated on a cold, snowbound night in a ski lodge. The fire created by the young men, however, sends Mark into the arms of a woman and the narrator into the arms of Catholicism.

The narrator spends the beginning of the following summer working in a Catholic refuge for the homeless, Lazarus House. He immerses himself in service to the poor.

One morning he wakes from a dream clutching his pillow:

*An awakening doubly distressful to me,  
since the dream I attempted to capture again*

*was forbidden/and had to be banished. Reality/drab as linoleum, took on the specious allure of a dream/as the glow of temptation gave way to the commonplace glare of the morning.*

Deciding that six a.m. Mass is not enough discipline for his determined youth, he leaves Lazarus House for Sweet Saviour Priory, a small Vermont monastery. The Benedictine monks give him the isolation he requires to maintain his vows.

He often engages in conversation with the Abbot, who asks if God resides in the world. The narrator replies, "In and out, here and there, now and then, but invariably in disguise." The Abbot decides, at summer's end, to send the narrator to McGill University to finish his degree to better serve the church.

By the beginning of his sophomore year, the narrator finds it increasingly difficult to honor his vows. The charming mystique of his new friend, Hyacinth Star, serves only to saturate his garden with fertilizer and now the Passion-Flower grows wilder than ever "for the friendships of youth are more instant than Nescafé, needing not even hot water."

Thus begins another cycle for the narrator, who has been in and out of love, religion and McGill. However, he has never stepped out of life or its protective grace.

*In and Out* is written in accentual anapests. The lines punch out a continuous ta-ta-tum rhythm running three per line, as seen in Hine's description of spring in Montreal:

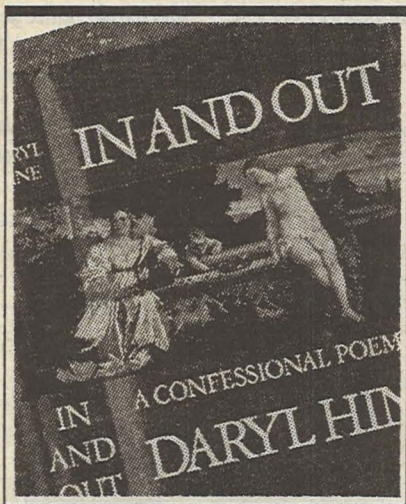
"Instantaneous Spring had attacked/Montreal overnight like a laxative, loosening snow from the slopes/of the mountain, from the rooftops and sidewalks/and streets, where it piled up in barricades/during our annual siege..."

Daryl Hine studied at McGill University and got a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at the University of Chicago. He went on to teach at the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois and Northwestern University. He was editor of *Poetry* for ten years and has published more than fifteen works, including several translations, a novel and ten verse collections.

His poetry includes *Academic Festival Overtures*, a book-length narrative poem of his first year of junior high school, a playful prelude to the more elevated style of *In and Out*.

**HINE'S CATHOLIC ADVENTURE** and his disciplined study of the Classics have made him one of the most respected contemporary poets. His themes, as well as his tightly controlled style of writing, rank him with the late 19th-century poet Constantine P. Cavafy.

The Hine's *In and Out* narrator found plenty of room in his garden for nature to find its way back; his hoe was given the new task of turning nutrients into the soil, never again to cut the stem of Passiflora. •

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— **Amy Vanderbilt, in the Complete Book of Etiquette (1952 edition).**

"Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult."  
— **Charlotte Whitton, mayor of Ottawa, Canada.**

"When will college officials accept the reality that if the Constitution does not bestow the right to anyone to shout 'fire' in a crowded theater, the First Amendment does not grant the right to shout 'Niggers' when the basketball team walks by?"

"Allegedly, much soul-searching is going on from Stanford to Columbia, from Emory University in Georgia to the University of Michigan over whether campus officials may suppress 'speech' that incites racism, sexism, hatred of homosexuals and other 'different' groups.

"An enemy of mine is free to picket my house or stand in the street and vilify me, but he is not protected by the Constitution if he tries to do that at my dinner table.

"Similarly, a student admitted to Stanford or Emory has no constitutional right to provoke hatred and violence on campus, any more than he or she would in a theater. A college president or board has a right to say to each student admitted, 'We have accepted standards of conduct here, and your admission is based upon your acceptance of those standards.'

"Some of the people who claim to be the greatest protectors of individual freedom are giving 'civil liberties' a bad name by trying to extend to bigots 'rights' to harass, vilify and abuse others that are not granted anywhere in the Constitution."

— **Carl Rowan, syndicated newspaper columnist.**

"A lesbian scene — passionate kissing by two women — in Monday's opener didn't appear in the show Queen Elizabeth say on a benefit night last week. A show spokesman said props had not been ready, but other reports implied it was cut to avoid offending the queen."

— **Jeannie Williams, USA Today gossip columnist, on Cats composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's new hit London musical Aspects of Love.**

"I've been accused of single-handedly converting hundreds of young women to lesbianism. Well, they're wrong. It takes two hands."  
— **Rubyfruit Jungle author Rita Mae Brown, joking with the audience at her reading last Thursday at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville.**

"I am just a nice, clean-cut Mongolian boy."  
— **Actor Yul Brynner.**

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— **The Christian Science Monitor's Lin Poyer, on whether Barbie dolls present children with harmful stereotypes of women.**

"In Fairfax County, proposed new sex education courses would include the entire menu of sex-related subjects, including contraception, abortion, homosexuality and masturbation. The program would begin with kindergartners.

"If ever there was a reason for the Bush administration to actively

support tuition tax credits so that financially strapped parents can choose where to send their children to school, this is it.

"The chairman [sic] of the committee that is about to force the Planned Parenthood agenda down the throats of students and parents, Linda Hossenlopp, says, 'It isn't easy being an adolescent. We're trying to give them the tools.' Does it have to be a chainsaw?"

— **Cal Thomas, syndicated newspaper columnist, on Virginia's requirement that public school systems institute "family life" curricula.**

"The February issue of *Southern Magazine* announces, 'Straight talk about being gay,' but offers us, instead, a portrait of gay men who are every bit as vacuous and self-absorbed as magnolia debutante queens.

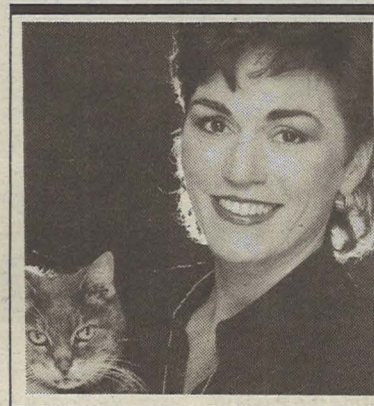
"How unfortunate that, in this time of renewed anti-gay violence and prejudice, Southern chose not to profile any of the thousands of Southern men who are leading exemplary, constructive, and altruistic lives."

— **Scott Auerbach of Atlanta, in a letter to the editor of Southern Magazine.**

"Obscenity is whatever happens to shock some elderly and ignorant magistrate."  
— **Bertrand Russell, in Look, February 23, 1954.**

"Sex and obscenity are not synonymous. Obscene material is material which deals with sex in a manner appealing to prurient interest."  
— **U.S. Supreme Court Justice William Brennan**

"What is obscenity to one person is but a subject of scientific inquiry to another."  
— **U.S. District Judge Edmund Palmieri, ruling on sex-related manuscripts imported by the Kinsey Institute for Sex Research.**



Rita Mae Brown

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