

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 24

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

June 16 - 22, 1989

National groups get new leaders

by CAROLE CUNNINGHAM
Staff Writer

By the end of this month, two of the nation's top gay and lesbian rights advocacy organizations will be under the leadership of new executive directors.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the Human Right Campaign Fund (HRCF) have each known since early 1989 of the impending departure of their top administrators.

On May 6, HRCF appointed Boston attorney Kevin McFeeley to their top post. McFeeley, whose private sector finance experience edged out candidates with more extensive grassroots gay and lesbian organizing, brings a solid background in public interest law and electoral politics to HRCF's Washington, D.C.-based lobbying efforts.

HRCF's lobbying success in recent years has largely been due to its innovative campaigns aimed at involving otherwise inactive gay men and lesbians in backing the group's legislative efforts in Washington. HRCF kicked off its mailgram campaign at the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

The group's budget will surpass \$2 million this year.

NGLTF will choose its new executive director before
the end of next week from a field narrowed from 86 to
eight final candidates. Sue Hyde, coordinator of the
• continued on page 3



Andy Warhol shows a different side in this portrait by artist Christopher Makos. The photo is one of over 300 items that will be sold at *Celebrities and Friends*, a benefit auction and sale for Metropolitan Community Church/Nashville and AIDS/Southern Kentucky (ASK) Saturday, June 17. — PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER MAKOS

Nashville Planned Parenthood burgled

by JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Thieves took more than \$12,000 in cash and checks during a break-in of the Nashville office of Planned Parenthood during the early hours of Monday, June 5, according to a Metro Police Department report.

Laura Milner, Planned Parenthood public affairs director, said she could neither confirm or deny the occurrence of the break-in and declined comment.

According to the police report, "someone entered the Planned Parenthood building...from the garage downstairs." Planned Parenthood has its offices in the University Plaza building at 112 21st Avenue, South.

Thieves took an estimated \$12,620 in cash and checks from the Planned Parenthood safe. The bandits apparently chiseled a hole through a concrete-block wall separating the offices from a private stairwell to gain access to the offices, where they then dismantled the safe.

A source who spoke on condition of anonymity told *Dare* that thieves apparently gained entry to the building via an unlocked door leading to the stairwell from the building's ground-floor parking deck.

The building's security officer checked the premises at 3:17 a.m. according to the police report, and "the hole wasn't in the wall at that time." When Planned Parenthood

staffers reported for work at 9 a.m. Monday, they discovered the safe had been pilfered and some \$12,620 was missing.

Planned Parenthood's office throughout the past year has been the site of protests staged by antiabortion activists. Last month, an altercation between two protestors and Milner resulted in criminal charges filed by both sides of the dispute.

Milner alleged that she was attacked on the same staircase by the



The hole through which thieves entered Planned Parenthood. — DARE STAFF PHOTO

two men as they tried to force their way into the office. The two then filed assault charges against Milner, charging that she pushed them when they asked to view Planned Parenthood's financial records. •

— additional research by LAURA TEK

Nashville doctors issue HIV-test policy

by DEBORAH BURKS
Staff Writer

Tennessee's oldest medical association, the Nashville Academy of Medicine, recently released its policy on HIV testing. According to Rob Dawster, public affairs specialist for the Academy, a task force composed of local hospital officials, public health personnel and Academy board members studied the issues for several months and made the following policy recommendations May 4:

"A. VOLUNTARY TESTING: The Nashville Academy of Medicine encourages voluntary HIV testing when part of an indicated diagnostic and infection control effort.

"B. CONSENT FOR TESTING: The NAM supports the need for informed consent for HIV testing in all but the exceptions specified in Section C below. Patients undergoing testing should receive appropriate pre- and post-test counseling, Informed consent for HIV testing includes provision of accurate information not only on clinical aspects but potential discrimination regarding insurance, employment, etc., as well as

the anticipated benefit of early medical care, if the patient is found to be infected.

"C. MANDATORY TESTING: HIV testing should be mandatory only for donors of blood and blood components, organs and other tissues intended for transplantation in the United States or abroad, and for donors of semen or ova collected for artificial insemination or in vitro fertilization, and for persons whose body fluids have inadvertently exposed a health care provider thus creating a significant risk of disease transmission.

"D. HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS: In a hospital setting, HIV testing should be undertaken only on a voluntary basis as part of a medical evaluation with informed consent and appropriate preand post-test counseling. Patients who decline recommended testing will be subject to the same infection control and risk reduction protocols as infected

"E. SURGICAL PATIENTS: HIV testing of patients scheduled fro surgery should be voluntary, by informed consent and accompanied by pre- and post-test counseling. Again, patients who decline or who are unable to con-

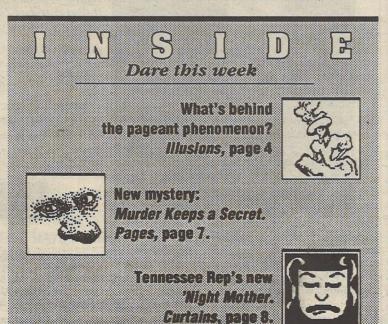
sent to testing will be subject to the infection control and risk reduction measures that apply to infected patients.

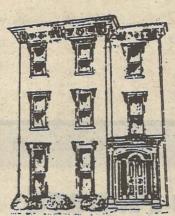
"F. CONFIDENTIALITY OF HIV TEST RESULTS: The NAM encourages confidentiality of HIV test results consistent with confidentiality accorded all medical records."

Dawster said the policy study was prompted by the death of Harold Dennison, a local surgeon who died of AIDS-related complications in January. Dennison claimed to have contracted HIV from a blood splash which occurred while he performed surgery.

"Some board and Academy members felt a need to formulate a policy that would provide guidance in the protection of health care workers who deal with this disease," Dawster said.

The Academy policy has been sent to local hospitals and physicians but, Dawster explained, it is intended to be used as a guideline in dealing with HIV testing and "is in no way legally binding" on hospitals and Academy members.





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Phillip: Nobody talks about it. But everybody's afraid of getting it.

Are you afraid?

Phillip: Of AIDS—yes. Of talking about it—no.

What sort of reaction do you get when you mention AIDS?

Phillip: It certainly gets their attention.



Nashville CARES Box 25107, Nashville, TN 37202 Education call (615) 385-AIDS For information on individual or group counseling call (615) 385-1510

Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC) Box 40389, Memphis, TN 38174-0389 M-F 3:30 pm - 11 pm Sat, Sun 7:30 - 11 pm call (901) 458-AIDS Answering service 24 hours call (901) 762-8401

a public service message from Dare and Tennessee Responds to AIDS

Mondays

Pheenix (Cay 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

PFILAR (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.

Agape New Life Church Sunday School, 9:30am. Worship service, 11am. Info 901 276-1872. unity Church Worship service, 11am, 1216 Forrest Ave.

901 276-1872.

Mely Trinity Community Church Worship service, 11am. 1216 Forrest Av Info 901 726-9443.

Into the Light (Women's Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting. Memphis Lambot Center. Noon. Info 901 276-7379.

Pheesix (Cay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambota Cer 8pm. Info 901 272-9459. omen's Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting. Memphis Lambda

NASHVILLE

Mondays

Cay Overcators Anonymous Open meeting for lesbian and gay overcaters MCC, 5:30pm. Info 615-327-4614.

Nastrollie CARES ARC/AIDS Support Group. 6:30pm. Info 615-385-1510.

Lambda Group Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. Spm.

MAGNET (Married and Gay Network) Support group for married gay men. 1st & 3rd Mondays only. MCC. 7:30pm. Info 615-320-0288.

Neshwile CARES HIV+ Support Group. 6pm. Info 615-385-1510.

Al-Anee 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.

NTSU Lambda Association Meeting for lesbian and gay Middle Tennessee State University students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Murireesboro. 7pm. Info 615-600-2787.

Seber Sisters (Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous) Closed meeting, MCC. 8pm Say Cable Network Viscom Channel 35 (Community Access Television), 9p

Wednesdays

Sex Addicts Anonymous Closed meeting for gay men and lesbians. MCC.

5:30pm.

Reshville CARES Newcomers Group. 6pm. Info 615-385-1510.

Ray Parents Support Group Meeting, MCC. 1st Wednesday only. 7pm. Info 615-831-2941 or 615-320-0288.

Thursdays

Incest Survivors Anonymous Closed women's meeting. First Chu Franklin Rd, 6:30pm. Mashville CARES Visualization Group. 7:15pm. 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.

Inonymous Closed meeting, MCC. Spm. Inonymous Program Study Group Meeting, Belmont United

Saturdays

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

3-Supril.

Metropolitan Community Church Community Dinner, all you can eat.

7:30pm. \$5. Info 615-320-0288.

Bay Cable Network: Viacom Channel 35 (Community Access Television). 8pm.

Sundays

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

vivers Anonymous Closed meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin

Your nonprofit event can be listed free in Dates. Write to Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422, or phone 615 327-Dare 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.

Special Events

Saturday, June 17

Art Show and Auction To benefit Metropolitan Community Church/Nashville and AIDS Southern Kentucky (ASK). At Gas Lite Lounge, 167-1/2 8th Ave North, Nashville. Sale and exhibition, 6:30pm, auction, 7:30pm. Info 615-320-0288.

Concert Martie van der Voort, sponsored by Random Productions in celebration of Lesbian and Gay Pride Week. Reception follows. Laurel Theatre, 1538 Laurel Ave. Knoxville. \$8. Info 615-688-3428.

Sunday, June 18

Gay Pride Fest Celebration of gay pride. Mud Island, Memphis. Sponsored by Memphis Gay Coalition. Cookout, volleyball, booths. Free. Info and tickets 901-324-

Monday, June 19

Lecture John D'Emilio, assistant professor of history at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro and author with Estelle B. Freedman of Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America. Sponsored by Vanderbilt Lambda Association. Furman Hall 114, Nashville. Free.



Saturday, June 24

Parade Nashville Pride Week '89 parade. Gather at 2pm at Fannie Mae Dees Park, 24th Ave and Blakemore, Nashville, Step-off at 3pm. Route follows Blakemore to Natchez Trace to Centennial Park. Info 615-297-4293.

Rally Nashville Pride Week '89 rally. Centennial Park bandshell, Nashville. Keynote speaker Renée McCoy, executive director, National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays. Entertainment, crafts, food, local speakers and a special awards presentation. Free. 4pm. Info 615-297-4293.

Concert Nashville Pride Week '89 concert. Olivia records artist Deidre McCalla. Centennial Park bandshell, Nashville. Free. 6pm. Info 615-297-4293.

River Ride Mississippi River cruise featuring Joyce Cobb benefits Memphis Ga: Coalition. \$15. Tickets at Star Search Video, 1264 Madison, Memphis. Info 901-324-GAYS.

Sunday, June 25

Picnic Nashville Pride Week '89 picnic, Potluck, bring your own beverage. Edwin Warner Park site #10, Nashville. Free. Info 615-297-4293.

Benefit Benefit for Nashville AIDS service organizations. Pre-event Circle of Friends reception with Janis lan, at Cakewalk Restaurant, 3001 West End Ave, Nashville. \$150 per person, \$250 per couple. Main event For Pete's Sake! Janis lan sings at Slice of Life Restaurant, 1811 Division, Nashville. \$25 minimum donation. Info 615-269-7552.

ASK serves southern Kentucky

by HARRISON HICKS Staff Writer

REG LASWELL CREDITS Janet Pierce, former director of the AIDS service organization Nashville CARES, with the idea for AIDS Southern Kentucky (ASK), a volunteer nonprofit organization which provides educational and support services aimed at educating the p;ublic about HIV infection and providing support services for those infected with HIV. Laswell, now administrative coordinator for ASK, said he was a Nashville CARES volunteer in 1987 when Pierce first pointed out the need to him for an organization to inform people in the rural areas of southern Kentucky about AIDS and its prevention.

Laswell followed up on the conversation, and with the help of others formed ASK, which was chartered in March, 1988. Since then, headed by a fiftenen member board of directors with a volunteer staff of almost thirty people, ASK has started a speaker's bureau to provide speakers to talk with various business and civic groups over the past year about AIDS, HIV infection and the prevention of AIDS. ASK facilitators have also spoken to several fraternities at Kentucky colleges since identifying college students as well as gay men as one of their educational target groups.

THE GROUP HAS also worked with various local and state agencies to provide services to HIV-positive clients and those with AIDS. Laswell said that the organization makes a conscious attempt not to duplicate existing services, acting as a referral service whenever possible but available to "provide services no one else is providing."

As an organization serving rural areas, ASK has faced several problems since its formation. One such problem, he said, is distance. The ten-county Barren River Developmemnt District, the area which ASK servces, covers more than 4000 square miles with a population of about 235,000. Logistics and expense become a problem because of the amount of traveling that must be done by volunteers. With prospective clients not clustered in small areas. said Laswell, "it makes it very difficult to get

support groups together."

Homophobia is another problem. Despite the fact that ASK is not what Laswell called a "gay" or "straight" organization, prospective clients for the organization are extremely fearful of being identified as gay, he said. "What we are dealing with," Laswell said, are people who live in "very small communities where everyone knows everyone else.

"Maintaining anonymity is a real problem,"

PROSPECTIVE CLIENTS ARE often so fearful that "people up there will not come to an office, even if they need help." Accordingly, ASK uses its two-room Bowling Green office as a base of operations from which to send its volunteers to prospective clients, who for the most part are referred to the group by health care professionals.

Laswell said he sees health care professionals as a critical link for the organization. The group has had to rely almost completely on word of mouth and client referrals.

For the future, ASK will try to broaden its volunteer base, Laswell said, noting that most of the volunteers and directors live in the Bowling Green area. ASK will try to involve more health care professionals from around the area in its efforts and on the board of directors. The group hopes to adopt the Stop AIDS Project model used successfully in San Francisco.

Though San Francisco participants were approached in bars and on the streets for the project, Laswell was optimistic that the concept could be adapted to ASK's rural setting. The program uses one-time small group discussions of HIV and safer sex methods. The key, Laswell said, is the small group setting, which helps maintain anonymity. For participants, the organization would rely on friendship networks, he said. For now, ASK is trying to get funding to train facilitators and purchase educational meterials for the program.

Editor's note: ASK and Metropolitan Community Church/Nashville will sponsor a benefit sale and auction Saturday, June 17. For more information, phone (615) 320-0288. •

...new leaders

continued from page 1

group's Privacy Project and head of the executive search committee, said this week that broad-based experience in gay and lesbian rights advocacy, a longstanding commitment to gay and lesbian organizations and extensive fundraising and administrative experience were the main criteria used to narrow a large, qualified field.

She noted that the eight finalists all have experience in either gay and lesbian advocacy and/or AIDS advocacy. The Task Force has also strongly encouraged applications from women and persons of color.

Jeffrey Levi, who in his five years as NGLTF executive director has seen the organization's budget swell to just under \$1 million, steps down from the post later this month to enter private business.

It comes as little surprise that both HRCF and NGLTF place fundraising experience at the top of their lists of candidate qualifications. In addition to Levi's resignation early this year, the Task Force lost development director Joan Tournesan in late April, leaving organization without a fundraising and budget coordinator.

Nashvillian Gregory Fisher, a member of the Task Force's national board of directors, said that the new executive director would be responsible for choosing a replacement for

Hyde expressed confidence in the fundraising backgrounds of NGLTF's final candidates. The groups board of directors will meet in Washington this weekend to interview the remaining candidates and choose a new executive director.

Dare to be proud

Next week, Dare commemorates Pride Week'89 and the 20th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots with a special collector's edition. You can be a part of this special issue by sharing with our readers any photographs of or personal reminiscences about previous Pride celebrations. Phone (615) 327-Dare before 5:00 p.m. Monday, June19, for more information. •

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Ned Rorem, Holly Near, Patricia Nell Warren, Romanovsky and Phillips, Lyn Lavner, Kay Gardener, Michael Callen, Rita Mae Brown, Krandell Kraus, Sarah Shulman, Harlan L. Dalton, Warren Blumenfeld, Burton Clarke, Allison Bechdel, Camilla Decarnin, Suzanne Pharr, Richard Hall, Florine DeVeer, Alice Bloch, Lee Lynch, Sarah Aldridge, Winston Leyland, Christopher Makos, Ken Kaak, Howard Cruze, Donald Simonson, Nick Backes, Felix Irizarry, Phil Flasche, Etienne, Vernon Ray Luther, Pédro Almodóvar, Phil Zwickler, David Stuart, The Cast/Cats, The Cast/Les Misérables, The Cast,/Nunsense, The Cast/Phantom of the Opera, Bette Midler, The Washington Blade, The George Mavety Media Group, Off Our Backs, Our World, Chiron Rising, Mr. Leather Inter-national, Woodswomen, Colorado Gay Rodeo Association and Hot Hats/Key West.



For further information, contact:
Billy Isaacs 502-781-4430
Paul Tucker 615-320-0288
Reg Laswell 502-843-9619

I L L U S The Pageant Ph



by **JEFF ELLIS** *Managing Editor*

BACKSTAGE SETS the scene, with emotions at near-fever pitch.

The contestants and their entourages are busily attending to details: the zipper is stuck on that sequined gown, there's a nasty black streak on those white peau desoie pumps, that shade of eye shadow just doesn't go with that sportswear ensemble, and some props seem to have been misplaced for the talent competition.

Atlantic City and the Miss America pageant? Nope.

Miss U.S.A. and her peripatetic entourage? Huh-uh.

America's Junior Miss? Hardly.

All the glamour and intrigue of backstage happenings takes place at

any number of pageants designed to recognize the efforts, and some would say the artistry, of female impersonators.

The pageants may range from a title awarded by a nightclub or bar to the nationwide pageant systems of Miss Gay U.S.A. or Miss Gay America. Female impersonators — or illusionists, as many prefer to be called — may lay claim to the crown of Miss Gay Sugar Shack (as seen on a poster in a gay bar in Tupelo, Mississippi), all the way to Miss Gay U.S.A.-at-Large or Miss Continental U.S.A.

Nashville bars seem to have a lock on state pageant franchises: the Cabaret is home to Miss Gay Tennessee-America, while Warehouse 28 hosts Miss Gay Tennessee-U.S.A., both preliminaries to national competitions. The Cabaret last night celebrated its 12th anniversary with its annual Miss Music City U.S.A. pageant, which attracted contestants from throughout the country.

The upcoming Miss Continental Music City pageant, to be held at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center's Polk Theatre on Sunday, June 25, offers female impersonators another opportunity to win a chance at competing in the Miss Continental U.S.A. pageant in Chicago this Labor Day weekend. Contestants there will vie for the crown now held by Kelly Lauren, who will appear at Miss Continental Music City.

But to make it to the big time—in this case, a widely-known state or national pageant—some contestants have worked from six months to a year, maybe even longer, and have spent thousands of dollars in their quest to be among the best.

"I've seen contestants wear good, homemade gowns they spent \$75 on and

others wearing Bob Mackie gowns costing \$5,000," said Francis Phillips, producer of Miss Continental Music City. "They can easily spend \$10,000 preparing for a national pageant."

Yet while some contestants spend years in preparation, Phillips said others can pull it off in two weeks — if they are serious about pageants.

Planning a pageant, whether it be local, state or national, is hard work, according to first-time producer Phillips.

"People don't realize how much time and money go into doing a pageant. They're very hard work, but still a lot of fun," Phillips said.

FOR LONG-TIME pageant producers, such as Warehouse 28, the Cabaret, Chez Collette, Victor/Victoria's and the Jungle Lounge, experience gained through the years proves invaluable when it comes time to mount a production.

"We started with a 'Mister' pageant in 1978; we were involved with Mr. Blueboy and then Mr. Warehouse," said Warehouse 28's Steve Smith. "After a few years, we dropped pageants completely until female impersonation became a part of our entertainment offerings. We started with Miss Warehouse 28, then sort of stumbled onto the U.S.A. pageantry system."

Now, Warehouse 28, owns the franchises for both Mr. and Miss Gay Tennessee-U.S.A. The owners' Florida-based company, M-S-M Productions (named for Smith and his partners Mike Wilson and Mike Lane), holds the franchises for both the Mr. and Miss Gay Florida-U.S.A. and the Mr. and Miss Gay Central South-U.S.A. pageants.

"We've recently acquired the franchise for the Miss Gay Florida U.S.A.at-Large pageant, which will be held next Monday night" Smith said.

That pageant, and its national system, allows "big" female impersona-



Stephanie V

Phenomenon



e Wells

tors, as Smith called them, "a serious, not camp, competition."

"Sometimes, bigger contestants have difficulty competing in other pageants. This gives

them an opportunity to do so," he said.

Smith sees parallels between pageant systems for female impersonators and pageants like Miss America: "I see many parallels. But in gay pageants, it's a lot more fun and a lot wilder. It gives people an opportunity to travel and there's a sense of fraternity to the system, a nice feeling of camaraderie."

Like Miss America, contestants in next week's Miss Continental Music City, will compete in talent, evening gown, swimsuit and private interview categories.

"The major difference in the Continental pageant system and all the others is that the 'illusion' of being a woman is stressed," Phillips said.

Thus, in Continental pageants, contestants must take part in private interview dressed as women. Some other pageants conduct the interview segment with contestants dressed in men's clothing.

"Sportswear competition is not included in Continental pageants," Phillips said. "Many pageants are eliminating sportswear competition because of the expense. Many contestants spend more on sportswear than they do on evening gown, because the competition is so fierce."

FOR THE CONTESTANTS, winning the title and its accompanying symbols — crown, banner, roses — may lead to more lucrative rewards. Most contestants work as performers and listing a title on a résumé can prove to be a boon to the careers of many female impersonators.

"It can really enhance someone's career to win a pageant," Phillips said. "For example, the entertainer who is crowned Miss Continental U.S.A. signs a one-year contract to perform at preliminary pageants and at other nightclubs around the country."

"The impact of having a title var-

ies, depending on what area of the country you're in," Smith said. "In some areas, a title can significantly increase the number of bookings for a performer. In others, it may not necessarily increase bookings, but it helps to cultivate an interest in female impersonation as a form of entertainment."

Among performers in the mid-South who have won titles — on all levels of competition — are Lisa Beauman, former Miss Gay Tennessee-America; Stephanie Wells, former Miss Warehouse 28; Shelly Stone, the reigning Miss Gay South Carolina-USA; April Stevens, the reigning Miss Cabaret; Déjouré Shounté, Miss Music City U.S.A. 1988; and Alexis Spaulding, former Grand Empress of Tennessee.

But perhaps most successful in the world of pageants is Nashville's Diana Hutton, who was crowned Miss Gay U.S.A. in 1987.

PAGEANTS FOR FEMALE impersonators are not without their critics. Just as some people deride the concept of female impersonation, they especially take a dim view of pageants.

Nonetheless, the pageant phenomenon is likely to remain a part of the entertainment scene in the lesbian and gay community.

"I think people, when they go to one of these pageants, want to feel like they're a part of a special event. It's a production in every sense of the word, from the overture to the photographs of the winners after the pageant. People feel they've seen a tight, well-choreographed show," Smith said.

"We think people will really enjoy our pageant. It's going to be a very entertaining show," Phillips said. "We asked people what they'd like to see and they told us. So we're having Carmella Marcella Garcia and Charlie Brown, who both got their start in Nashville, to emcee the pageant. And Stephanie (Wells) is coming out of retirement to perform. It's really a big production."

And — just as young women across the country are preparing to "take the town by storm," as the Miss America song says — female impersonators are taking their own towns by storm.

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Dare

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

"I am the Love that dare not speak its name."
— Lord Alfred Douglas, "The Two Loves," 1892

June 16 – 22, 1989 Volume 2, Number 24

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SOAPBOX

Marching with women

by ROBERT BRAY

Human Rights Campaign Fund Communications Director

We men owe one

to lesbians. They've

been on the front

line of the fight

against AIDS since

the very beginning

of the epidemic,

even though they

bave the least

to lose.

THE IRONY WAS CLASSIC Washington: hundreds of thousands of women, including feminists, lesbians and female activists of every age, gathered around the world's biggest and most famous male phallic symbol — the Washington Monument.

It made me think of other unrelated, but peculiar, ironies one notices while living in the Federal City. The homeless camp in Lafayette Square across the street from the splendiferous White House; the National Aquarium in the basement of the Department of Commerce with "Daily Piranha and Shark Feedings at 2 p.m.; Arlington Cemetery behind the Pentagon for one-stop military processing.

Ironies aside, it was the historic National March on Washington for Women's Rights, Women's Lives—the largest such event in the U.S and perhaps the world. It was the muchneeded firing up of forces to fight the ultraconservative anti-choice machine. And it was an opportunity for hundreds of gay men like me to march beside women in a show of support and solidarity.

Early that morning gaggles of lesbians and gay men gathered in the march's unofficially designated "Queer Contingent," which seemed to be right at the tip of the Washington Monument's shadow. It was typical late-spring Washington weather, chilly and overcast, making one wonder why the conservatives always seem to get the

always seem to get the good march days.

Rainbow and pink triangle flags were flying,
friends were meeting,
chants were being crafted
and dates were being
cruised. Urvashi Vaid,
media queen for the National Gay and Lesbian
Task Force, was working
the megaphone and pointing out the Major Lesbians
in attendance.

Lesbian comedienne Kate Clinton marched with a coat hanger — the symbol of the march —

wrapped around her head like a fake Indian arrow.

ACT UP, apparently on Gay Time, arrived late. Someone said their buses were blocked from leaving New York by Operation Rescue's direct-action civil disobedience demonstrators.

It wasn't long before the crowd swelled to several hundred lesbian and gay marchers — all of them loud, impatient and anxious to move. The Queer-Contingent was way in the back half of the march with dozens of other groups scheduled to step off first. You would think the organizers of these straight events would know better than to put lesbian and gay activists anywhere near the back of the bus. (And please note, march organizers: next time have the word "lesbian" mentioned more than once in the post-march rally.)

GAY PEOPLE ARE THE BEST when it comes to creative chants. "Gay people have a voice, we're for women's choice!" or the crowd favorite, "2-4-6-8, you can't make us procreate...3-5-7-9, gay sex is mighty fine!"

One thing I couldn't help noticing about the women's event was the impressive number of mothers and daughters marching side by side. Later in the day, Gloria Steinem would comment that somewhere along the line young women dropped out of the feminist movement sparked by their mothers and dropped into Ronald Reagan's "dress for success" Me-generation America.

But here, now, were two generations of activists together, united by the very real threat that their most personal, private rights could soon be revoked by Reagan's Supreme Court.

I felt inspired and envious of the mothers and daughters. Frankly, I can't imagine many of my gay male friends marching with their fathers in a gay rights event.

Washington is one of the gayest cities in the world, populated by thousands of gay men. Sure, many are closeted, but why weren't there more gay men in the women's march?

The night before the march I got into a dumbfounding debate with a young gay man about why he didn't support the event.

In addition to telling me he was pro-military escalation, anti-ACT UP and Republican, the man said he was not going to participate because the march didn't "pertain to my agenda of issues."

BUT GAY MEN, it *does* pertain to our issues. First of all, privacy — or the lack of it — is an

issue quite familiar and important to us. They took our right to privacy away in the anti-gay, anti-sodomy Supreme Court's Hardwick v. Bowers ruling. Next they'll try to take away the right of women to control their own bodies. Where will it stop?

Second, we owe one to lesbians. They've been on the front line of the fight against AIDS since the very beginning of the epidemic, even though they have the least to lose. Lesbians have founded and volunteered

in AIDS care and support groups, protested and been arrested in front of foot-dragging government agencies, and waged anti-discrimination battles in the courts and closets of America

And don't forget, it was an enraged lesbian who first fought back against intrusive police that night outside the Stonewall Inn twenty years ago.

IFELT PROUD and empowered to be in the Women's March. It felt good to be with lesbians, fighting for the rights of all women, for the civil rights of all of us.

The Capital seemed livelier and more real that day. I even went to my first lesbian bar after the march and partied with the pinstriped power dykes of Washington and their new out-of-town girlfriends.

Indeed, Washington was different. The Capital, with its phallic monuments, male obelisks and good ole boy networks, was wiser and more human that weekend. It was changed by the women of the world.

I'm glad I was part of it.

Murder Keeps a Secret. Haughton Murphy. NY: Simon and Schuster, 1989. 239 pp. \$16.95. reviewed by LARRY ROMANS Special to Dare

MURDER KEEPS A SECRET is the latest in a mystery series featuring amateur detective Reuben Frost, the 77 year-old former head of a Wall Street law firm. While not a "gay" mystery, it may have particular interest to some Dare readers: the murder victim's son attended a Nashville university (the "Harvard of the South," in fact) and the crucial clue is provided by the victim's assistant, who is dying of AIDS.

Frost's godson, David Rowan, is a prizewinning historian who is researching a biography of deceased Supreme Court Justice Garrett Ainslee. Rowan is pushed to his death from the window of his Manhattan office. Frost works with his friend, homicide detective Luis Bautista, to try to solve the murder.

The suspects include the former wife and son that Rowan discarded; his chief academic competitor; his financially strapped publisher; Justice Ainslee's wife, who wants to suppress any account of her late husband's sexual liaisons; her boyfriend, a former bouncer in a gay bar who wants to keep his meal ticket happy;

It's a good mystery that provides a night or two of pleasant reading. It can't meet any higher standard.

Rowan's live-in girl friend, who may have wanted out of the relationship; a Mafioso with whom she is having an affair and a leading Presidential candidate, who worked for Justice Ainslee and who is afraid of what the Justice's papers contain.

The characters in Murder Keeps a Secret are rather two-dimensional. That would be acceptable if the characterization had been sacrificed to develop the puzzle (the murder) to be solved. But Murphy violates one of the classic canons of the puzzle mystery - the reader must know what the detective knows. No reader can logically solve this mystery, because at the crucial moment (thirty pages before the end of the book) Frost begins a marathon of telephoning that provides him with the information to solve the mystery. He gives this information and his hypothesis to detective Bautista, but not to the reader.

An unfortunate penchant of Murphy's is to reinforce the stereotypes of his minor characters: pompous publishers, pretentious academics, fussy librarians from the University of Tennessee and formerly promiscuous people with AIDS ("AIDS victims").

HE MAY ALSO reinforce a double standard. Justice Ainslee "went to bed with anything that moved - female, of course," apparently acceptable behavior for great straight men. The gay research assistant with AIDS is described "an indefatigable worker," but "[u]nfortunately, what little time for recreation he had seems to have been spent at the baths."

Murder Keeps a Secret is a good mystery that provides a night or two of pleasant reading. It can't meet any higher standard. •

Read all about it.

SHERRE DRYDEN Book Editor



Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly

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STONEWALL 20

PRIDE GUIDE Nashville Pride Week '89

Saturday, June 17 **▼** ART AUCTION

6:30 p.m. Sale and Exhibition

7:30 p.m. Auction

Gas Lite Lounge, 167-1/2 Eighth Avenue North Information = 615 320-0288

Monday, June 19

VIECTURE

8:00 p.m. John D'Emilio, co-author of Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America. Vanderbilt Furman Hall 114 Information = 615 327-4614

Saturday, June 24

▼ PARADE, RALLY and CONCERT

2:00 p.m. Parade Line-up

Fannie Mae Dees Park, 24th Ave South and Blakemore

3:00 p.m. Parade Step-off

4:00 p.m. Rally, Centennial Park Bandshell

Keynote speaker Renée McCoy, Executive Director National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays

6:00 p.m. Outdoor Concert, Centennial Park Bandshell

Deidre McCalla

Information = 615 297-4293

Sunday, June 25

▼ PRIDE P!CNIC

1:00 p.m. Potluck and BYOBeverage Edwin Warner Park Site #10

▼ FOR PETE'S SAKE

Benefit for Nashville AIDS service organizations

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Pre-event "Circle of Friends" reception with Janis lan,

Cakewalk Restaurant

\$150 per person, \$250 per couple

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Janis Ian Sings, Slice of Life Restaurant

\$25 minimum donation

Information and reservations = 615 269-7552

Monday, June 26 - Sunday, July 9

▼ NAMES PROJECT QUILT

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Sunday Noon- 6:00 p.m.

Benton Chapel, Vanderbilt University Information = 615 386-9211 or 615 269-7552

Tuesday, June 27

▼ FILM

7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Before Stonewall. The Book Oasis. Space limited, reservations suggested.

Information = 615 292-7100

▼ Pride Week '89 needs volunteers: coordinators, security, stage crew, sales, promotion and much more. Please join us at our weekly planning meetings, Sundays at 1:00 p.m.

To volunteer or just to find out more, phone ≡ 615 297-4293.

Innouncements

· Canvassers needed: earn \$10-15+/hr, help build grassroots pressure to save lives. Good communications skills, assertiveness a must. Exp. helpful, will train, HRCF Field Division 202-628-4160.

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- · Remember their names. Help bring part of NAMES Project AIDS guilt to Nashville for Pride Week. Donations to PRIDE (Quilt), Box 24181, Nashville, TN
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· Catch our new look! Watch GCN/Nashville Tuesdays at 9pm, Saturdays at 8pm. On Nashville's Cable 35.

Travel

• TIMBERFELL LODGE, DISCREET HIDEAWAY. Bed & breakfast inn. 250 acres country elegance, deluxe rooms & food, sauna, jacuzzi & hiking. Clothes optional. The South's finest gay men's resort. Rte 11, Box 94-A, attn: DAR, Greeneville, TN 37743.615-234-0833.

Homes

- Unfurnished 1 bedroom apt in Inglewood \$305/mo. A/C and all utilities furnished. 615-226-7124 after 5.
- Enlightened M or F to share neat home. Belmont area ,available July 4. No smokers, pets. 615-385-
- · Housemate wanted. Private bath and kitchen. Nonsmoking. \$225 includes utils. Lockeland Springs.
- . BACK ON THE MARKET: Male roommate wanted to share home in Green Hills. \$225 a month plus half utils. Available now. No smokers/no dopers. 615-298-2422. Please leave message.

Personals

. Hey, dude. Ready for the big SIXTEEN?

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'Night Mother

reviewed by JEFF ELLIS Managing Editor

'NIGHT MOTHER, the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by Marsha Norman, is a troubling experience, almost inscrutable - but thanks to the acting of Mary Jane Harvill and Dorothy Marie and lackie Welch's taut direction, the play is brought close to the audience's collective heart - perhaps too close.

'Night Mother opened last week as the initial offering of Tennessee Repertory Theatre's Second Stage. TRT artistic director Mac Pirkle writes in the show's program that Second Stage

offers "a more intimate look at dramatic literature" and "an opportunity to get in touch with real issues in our community and in our lives."

The issue which is at the heart of 'Night Mother is suicide. Or so it seems at first. Delving more deeply into the play's construction, it becomes apparent that it's not just about suicide, but about any person's struggles to escape the monotony of life, the doldrums of an existence that has become all too predictable.

I must admit that at the conclusion of last week's opening night performance, my reaction to 'Night Mother was not good. Initially, I found Norman's script rife with sentiment, playing the audience's heartstrings as if they

That's all well and good. I, like Barbara Stanwyck, adore cheap sentiment. But unfortunately, in Jessie and Mama, playwright Norman has created two characters who do little to elicit any sympathy. To me, 'Night Mother was nothing more than a 90-minute suicide.

Jessie was a quitter and a whiner - with an Electra complex. Mama was selfish and egocentric - perhaps, even, a latter day Medea.

But that was my initial reaction. After some time spent analyzing the play in my mind, I realized that I did feel some affection for Jessie and Mama, that their stories touched me - not in the usual sense, but on a deeper level. While I've often been touched by other characters in other plays, I've never been quite so torn about my feelings toward them as I was with 'Night

After a while I began to realize that Norman planned it that way. It would have been quite easy to present Jessie and Mama as sympathetic paragons who have been dealt a bad hand by life. Instead, she's created two women who can get on your nerves while ingratiating

themselves to you. In that sense, they're like real people -like you and me.

The play takes place on a Saturday night in some unnamed, vaguely Southern, locale. Jessie is in her 30s, has epilepsy, is divorced and has a teenaged son who's in trouble with the law. She doesn't like her life and she doesn't think it's going to get any better. Jessie tells her mother that she's going to commit suicide.

The older woman doesn't seem much happier than her daughter. But she has sublimated any thoughts of despair and accepts things as they are. Naturally, she is horrified at her daughter's declaration and so begins a night of painful revelations and touching confessions.

Mary Jane Harvill, as Jessie, gives a credible performance, building her characterization toward a riveting climax. As Mama, Dorothy Marie is splendid, eloquently giving voice to her character.

JACKIE WELCH'S DEFT directorial hand is evident throughout the performance, restraining the two actresses when needed, then giving them full rein as they hurtle toward the play's dénouement.

'Night Mother continues through Sunday at the Performance Space on the fourth floor of West End United Methodist Church on West

Hey, Chuck, meet Madonna 'n' Sandy!

"Grab me. It's a hetero world."

- Pop star Madonna, to openly-gay New York artist Keith Haring, as she hugged him onstage at "Don't Bungle the Jungle," a recent New York City benefit for Brazilian rain-forest conservation groups.

"I felt like fucking Georgia O'Keeffe walking down the grand canyon of Fifth Avenue."

— Comedian Sandra Bernhard on the "desert smells" that came out of a rug she bought at the auction of Andy Warhol's estate.

"I know we don't have a cock, but at lest I'm sure of all the things we got."

- Sandra Bernhard's slightly-altered lyrics to the Sonny and Cher standard "I Got You, Babe," in a duet with Madonna. Bernhard grabbed her crotch as she sang the line, according to the Village Voice.

"Don't believe the stories."

Madonna, on reports that she and Sandra Bernhard are having an affair.

"Believe the stories."

- Sandra Bernhard.

"It is a sinful lifestyle, according to scripture. These people [homosexuals, must be helped to be] delivered from the bondage [of their lifestyle.]

"[It is] interesting...what's happening as [homosexuality] has become an acceptable lifestyle in the minds of many people. Why not AIDS 50 years ago, 100 years ago?"

Charles Stanley, pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church and former president of the 14.3million member Southern Baptist Convention, on the idea of AIDS as divine punishment for homosexuality.