

More Pride  
photos  
inside!

# Dare

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 26

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

JUNE 30 — JULY 6, 1989

## Pride events draws 500

by JEFF ELLIS  
Managing Editor

Lesbian and gay Nashvillians — some 500 strong — last week celebrated the 20th anniversary of the infamous Stonewall riots with Pride Week '89 events which included a parade, rally and concert in Centennial Park.

Members of the Pride '89 Committee declared this year's celebration a success and vowed to begin work on the 1990 celebration as soon as the smoke clears from this year's events.

Proclaiming their pride, more than 260 people took part in the parade, which attracted counter-protestors ranging from skinheads to members of the religious right and the ubiquitous Mel Perry, a Madison preacher.

Led by a banner proclaiming, "The Volunteer State Marches," and a pink, white and black balloon arch, marchers responded to the counter-demonstrators by shouting "What do we want? Gay rights! When do we want them? Now!"

Brandishing a confederate flag and signs proclaiming "Hetero Power," the skinheads provided the most vocal opposition to parade revelers' cries of "We are everywhere! We will be free!" No altercations between the two contingents developed during the parade, which followed a route down Blakemore Avenue to Natchez Trace and on to



**Participants gather** at Fannie Mae Dees Park for the second annual Nashville Pride Parade. More than 260 marched in support of lesbian and gay rights in the parade this year, and were joined by several hundred more at Centennial Park for the Rally, which featured Renée McCoy, executive director of the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays. For more photos from the Pride Parade and Rally, see *Faces of Pride*, page 4. — DARE STAFF PHOTO

Centennial Park.

Members of the skinhead group, which numbered eight people, followed the parade along its route and taunted marchers with Nazi-style one-armed salutes and shouts of "Die, faggot, die!" Metro Police kept the protestors away throughout the parade and rally.

Two men, dressed in robes styled after those worn by disciples of Christ in ancient times, carried a banner reading, "God will forgive you if you turn from sins." The two men became incensed when Paul Tucker, pastor of Metropolitan

Community Church/Nashville (MCC), arrived carrying a banner from his church.

"False prophet! You're a false prophet!" the two charged. Later, at the entrance to Centennial Park, they displayed signs provided by Perry which read "AIDS is God's judgement against practicing homosexuals" and "Remember why God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah."

Saturday's festive atmosphere appeared to overshadow any threat of gloom from counter-demonstrators. The mood at the festival site in Centennial Park was light-hearted,

with booths and tables representing a variety of groups and organizations set up for browsers.

During the rally, speakers representing various groups, likened the struggle for lesbian and gay civil rights to other such movements for social change.

Renée McCoy, executive director of the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays, reiterated that theme throughout her keynote address.

"Just as we support the struggle for gay and lesbian rights, we must

## Vaid new Task Force director

by JEFF ELLIS  
Managing Editor

Meeting in Washington, members of the board of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) last week named Urvasi Vaid as the group's new executive director.

Vaid, presently NGLTF's public information director, succeeds Jeffrey Levi, who leaves the post after three years to work in public policy development. Vaid's selection culminates an intensive three-month search that attracted some 86 candidates for the job.

"I feel that my background and my love for this movement — everything that my life has been about for the past 12 years — have prepared me to accept the challenge of directing the nation's leading lesbian and gay civil rights organization," Vaid said.

Vaid will assume the duties of executive director on July 28.

"Urvasi will make an effective and exciting executive director of NGLTF. She is qualified, she is prepared, and, most importantly, she is enthused," Levi said. "I have no doubt that Urvasi will do a remarkable job and it is a relief to know I am leaving the organization in her very capable hands."

• continued on page 3



**An unidentified worker** hangs a section of the NAMES Project National AIDS Quilt in Vanderbilt University's Benton Chapel. A portion of the quilt will be on display through Sunday, July 9. — DARE STAFF PHOTO

## NAMES Project Quilt panels displayed

from STAFF REPORTS

A portion of the NAMES Project National AIDS Quilt went on display at Vanderbilt University's Benton Chapel Monday following opening ceremonies.

The panels were hung from the walls of the chapel as the last official Nashville Pride Week '89 event.

Debra Alberts, one of the organizers, said that the display had already had some effect.

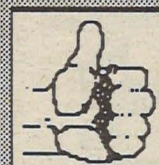
"I was surprised that the workers hanging the quilt were really very tender and reverent about it," she said.

Although closing ceremonies are slated for Friday, July 7, at 7:30 p.m., the sections will be on display through Sunday, July 9.

Alberts said that Metro Nashville Health Commissioner Fredia Wadley will keynote the closing ceremonies. Community members and dignitaries will read the names of some of those who have died from AIDS, and Metropolitan Community Church/Nashville pastor Paul Tucker will make closing remarks. •

## I N S I D E Dare this week

The good, the bad and the ugly  
at the Pride Parade and Rally.  
*Faces of Pride*, page 4



TV's Max Headroom  
has a new gay brother.  
*Waves*, page 6.

Tennessee Rep does  
an obtuse *The Blood Knot*.  
*Curtains*, page 7.





# a Generation of Pride Thanks.

Nashville Pride '89  
would like to thank all the following who helped make  
the celebration possible:

Sam Adams  
Debra Alberts  
Jason Anderson  
Kaye Armstrong  
the Rev. Beverly Asbury  
Mike Blevins  
Barbara Boyson  
Deborah Burks  
The Cabaret  
Penny Campbell  
Chez Colette  
The Chute  
Carole Cunningham  
Dare  
Jeff Ellis  
Edgehill United Methodist Church  
Gas Lite Lounge  
Gay Cable Network/Nashville  
Jim Grooms  
Alan Herbers  
Charles Jones  
Juanita's Bar  
LaCASA Central America Solidarity Association  
League for the Hearing Impaired  
Devie Levin  
Metropolitan Community Church/Nashville  
Minority AIDS Outreach  
Moonlight Sound  
Nashville CARES  
Nashville Local/Democratic Socialists of America  
Nashville Women's Alliance  
Nashville Youth Network  
Nashvillians for a Nuclear Arms Freeze  
National Organization for Women  
Metropolitan Nashville Board of Parks and Recreation  
Metropolitan Nashville Department of Public Works  
Metropolitan Nashville Police Department  
Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG)  
Ralph's Rutledge Hill Tavern  
Vance Shaw  
Ann Taylor  
Tennesseans Keeping Abortion Legal and Safe  
Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance  
Vanderbilt AIDS Project  
Vanderbilt Lambda Association  
Victor/Victoria's  
Warehouse 28  
Gerrit Wilson  
World's End

and the hundreds of others who participated. See you next year!

## 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 615-32-4614.  
**Nashville CARES** ARC/AI. Support Group. 6:30pm. Info 615-385-1510.  
**Lambda Group** Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and  
lesbians. Unitarian Church. 8pm.  
**MAGNET** (Married and Gay Network) Support group for married gay men. 1st &  
3rd Mondays only. MCC. 7:30pm. Info 615-320-0288.

#### Tuesdays

**Nashville CARES** HIV. Support Group. 6pm. 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** Newcomers Group. 6pm. Info 615-385-1510.  
**Gay 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 Church Unity,  
Franklin Rd. 6:30pm.  
**Nashville 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.

#### Fridays

**Sexaholics Anonymous** Closed meeting, MCC. 5pm.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group** Meeting, Belmont United  
Methodist. 7:30 pm.

#### Saturdays

**Incest 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.  
**Incest Survivors Anonymous** Closed meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin  
Rd. 6pm.

### Special Events

#### through Sunday, July 9

**Display** The NAMES Project National AIDS Quilt.  
Benton Chapel, Vanderbilt University, Nashville. Free.  
Mon-Fri 8am-9pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun Noon-6pm.  
Info 615-386-9211 or 615-269-7552.

#### Friday, June 30

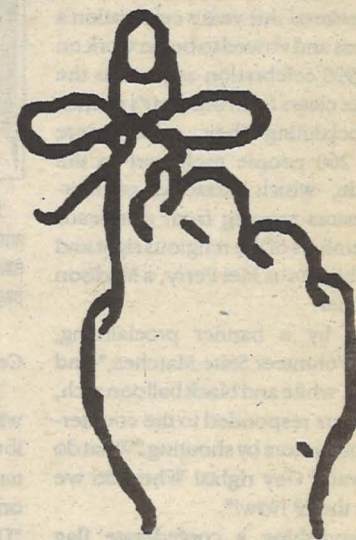
**NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING  
FOR THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY**

#### Friday, July 4

**INDEPENDENCE DAY**

#### Friday, July 7

**Closing Ceremonies** NAMES Project National AIDS  
Quilt. Keynote speaker Fredia Wadley, Metro Nashville  
Health Commissioner, reading of names, and closing  
remarks by Metropolitan Community Church/Nashville  
pastor Paul Tucker. Benton Chapel, Vanderbilt Univer-  
sity, Nashville. Free. 7pm. Info 615-386-9211 or 615-  
269-7552.



#### Sunday, July 9

**Book Circle** Feminist Book Circle discussion of Carol  
Gilligan's *In a Different Voice*. First Unitarian Universalist  
Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. 5pm-7pm.  
Free.

#### Monday, July 10

**Consciousness Raising** Black and White Men To-  
gether/Memphis. 7:30pm. Info 901-726-1461.

#### Saturday, July 15

**Cookout** Gay Women's Social Group cookout and  
Memphis Chicks baseball outing. Memphis. Hot dogs  
and chips. 5:30pm. Game starts at 7:15pm. Info 901-  
324-6949

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## ...Pride celebration

• continued from page 1

support the struggles of people anywhere — whether it's people in Central America or the students in China," McCoy said.

McCoy stressed the importance of participating in the coming out process and told her audience that only through honest, forthright action can equal rights be achieved.

McCoy, an ordained pastor in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, is organizing a ministry to address the spiritual and survival needs of Detroit's black lesbian and gay community. She is the founder of the Detroit Coalition of Black Gays and Lesbians and the New York Coalition of Third World Lesbians and Gays.

June Drury, representing LaCASA (the Nashville-based Central America Solidarity Association), said her group's support of the lesbian and gay movement was indicative of LaCASA's efforts to "secure basic human rights for all people."

Other speakers included Lynne Cushing, president of the Nashville chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW); Jason Anderson, of the Nashville Youth Network; Sandee Potter, executive director of Nashville CARES, an AIDS services organization; Abby Rubinfeld, board member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; and Greg Fisher, of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA).

Local singer/musician Gerrit Wilson opened the festivities with a performance of "Come Out and Play," the Pride anthem written for last year's celebration.

Jim Grooms, a Nashvillian who was present

during the 1969 rioting at New York's Stonewall Inn, spoke of his impressions of that time and of the burgeoning gay rights movement which resulted from the riots. Grooms' lover, Ray Ankrom, who moved to New York a year after the riots, spoke of the beginnings of openly gay society in New York.

Pride Week celebrations throughout the country commemorated the June, 1969, riots which are viewed by many as the beginning of the modern lesbian and gay civil rights movement in this country.

Steve Smith, co-owner of Warehouse 28, and Metropolitan Community Church-Nashville were honored with special awards presented by the Pride Week committee. Penny Campbell and Carole Cunningham, coordinators of this year's events, cited Smith and MCC for their support of the local lesbian/gay movement.

"Warehouse 28 and Steve Smith have always offered their support to our community. The Warehouse is not only a place to dance and to have a good time, but also a place to become involved," Cunningham said.

Campbell cited MCC's years of community service and for providing a "safe space" for lesbians and gay men throughout middle Tennessee.

Saturday's events were capped off by a free concert featuring Olivia Records recording artist Deidre McCalla. Local singer/musician Judy Eron opened the concert with a performance of three of her most-requested songs.

Sunday's annual Pride Picnic, held at Edwin Warner Park, drew more than 100 people for the potluck lunch and festivities.

## ...Vaid new NGLTF executive director

• continued from page 1

"The entire board of directors has been involved across the nation in the selection process and we feel confident that Urvashi is the best choice to lead our organization and the movement into the 1990s," said Jim Holm, co-chair of the board. "Her familiarity with the organization and her reputation nationwide as a leader in lesbian and gay civil rights activism and organizing, as well as her proven management, fundraising and media skills make her the obvious successor to Jeffrey Levi."

With more than a decade of involvement in the lesbian and gay civil rights movement,

Vaid is a 1979 graduate of Vassar College and earned her law degree from Northeastern University School of Law in 1983.

She has held staff positions with Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAAD), Boston's *Gay Community News* and the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

With more than 15,000 members nationwide, NGLTF is active in grassroots organizing, legislative lobbying, both on the local and federal levels; and houses the Privacy Project, the Anti-Violence and Campus Projects, and the Lesbian and Gay Families Project.

## Q U O T E S

"I have been called a gold digger, a house wrecker, a lesbian and now this. I guess it doesn't make good copy to write about me as an expectant mother in Scottsdale, Ariz., but maybe they'll have me giving birth to an alien." — Brigitte Nielsen, on a story in the supermarket tabloid *Star* that said she was involved in the Rob Lowe sex tapes.

"Marilyn Monroe was a swinger who, in the course of her lifetime, may have engaged in one or two affairs with a person of her own sex. But she was overwhelmingly heterosexual, concentrating her time, ardor and favors on men. In all her 36 years, Marilyn was alleged to have had an affair with only one woman — a drama coach — and Hollywood put little stock in that rumor."

— Walter Scott, in his column "Personality Parade," appearing in *Parade* magazine.

"As *The World Turns* has done a superb job of presenting a gay character on the show. Being gay myself, I can say that Hank (played by Brian Starcher) effectively represented many of us who do not behave in a stereotypically gay manner."

— An unidentified reader, in a letter to the editor of *Soap Opera Digest*.

"The main reason I left Oral Roberts University was because I just didn't feel comfortable in that atmosphere. They (ORU's administration) didn't allow one of my friends to come back to school because he had gained so much weight. I also knew a lot of guys that got kicked out because they were gay...You weren't accepted if you didn't fit the image."

— General Hospital star Scott Thompson Baker, telling a reporter for *Soap Opera Digest* why he left ORU as an undergraduate.



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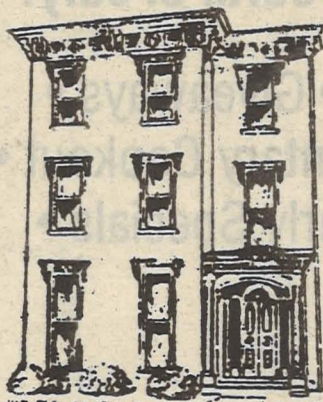
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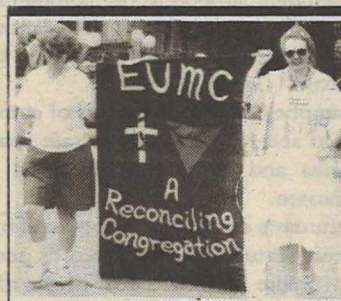
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FACES OF

Celebrating



Counter-protestors, ranging from skinheads to the religious right, to Metropolitan Nashville police officers worked with official peacekeepers to



Two members of Nashville's Edgehill United Methodist Church arrive at the Parade stepoff site. — DARE STAFF PHOTO



More than 260 people took part in Nashville's second annual Pride Parade which followed a route from Fannie Mae Dees Park on Blakemore to the Centennial Park bandshell. — DARE STAFF PHOTO

by JEFF ELLI  
Managing Editor



Olivia Records recording artist Deidre McCalla entertained her audience with selections from her latest album during the free concert which highlighted Saturday's rally. — DARE STAFF PHOTO

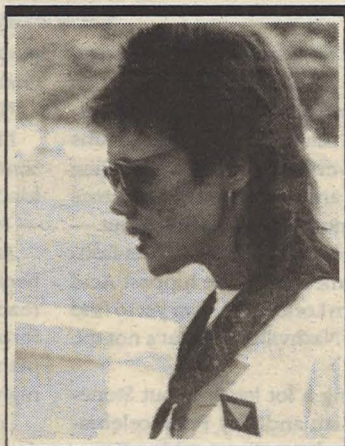


## OF PRIDE

## ing Pride '89



religious right, taunted marchers in the Pride '89 Parade. A contingent of icekeepers to keep the counter-protestors away from marchers. — DARE



**Penny Campbell**, Pride Week '89 coordinator, takes care of last-minute details during the rally and festival at Centennial Park. — DARE STAFF PHOTO



**Robert Allen**, right, offers his interpretation of the Bible to a robed counter-protestor at the Parade. — DARE STAFF PHOTO

**L**AST SATURDAY afternoon, as people began to gather at Fannie Mae Dees Park for the beginning of the Pride '89 parade, we were greeted by skinheads and religious kooks, exhorting us to "turn from sins."

It was, at first, a daunting sight. Last year, only three protestors showed up, and they were pretty quiet. When plans for that first parade were announced, there were a lot of detractors — "It just won't fly in Nashville, the KKK will be there, all the religious fanatics will be there, blood will be shed." — but they were proven wrong.

And so, on Saturday, we were still reveling in the glories of last year's celebration, still riding high on a self-congratulatory plateau of complacency. The demonstrators helped to jolt us out of our reverie and confronted us with the cold realities of homophobia.

Altercations between the two groups — lesbians, gay men and their supporters vs. everybody else — were, thankfully, short-lived and relatively mild.

Any nervousness was overcome by a very real sense of pride and a feeling of community that was exciting and innervating. The camaraderie and *esprit de corps* exhibited by all the folks awaiting the parade's start completely overshadowed any threat of trouble.

Parading through the streets of Nashville — exhibiting our pride in who we are, where we've been and where we're going — was a courageous attempt to let our detractors know that no longer will we settle for less. We proved to them

Saturday that we are, as the song goes, "a gentle, angry people."

"We are everywhere! We will be free!" the marchers chanted.

And someday we will be free. Saturday's public acknowledgement sent a message to the people of Nashville, the people of Tennessee and the world, that we are here and we aren't going to hide in the shadows any longer.

On a personal level, perhaps the most moving sight during the day's events was a family from Chattanooga: two lesbian mothers and their children. They had traveled the hundred or so miles to the state's capital city to proclaim their pride in being gay and being a family.

"The kids go to an inner-city school," one of the women explained. "But most of the other kids' parents are professional so they haven't had to endure as much as you might expect. But they've had to put up with a lot."

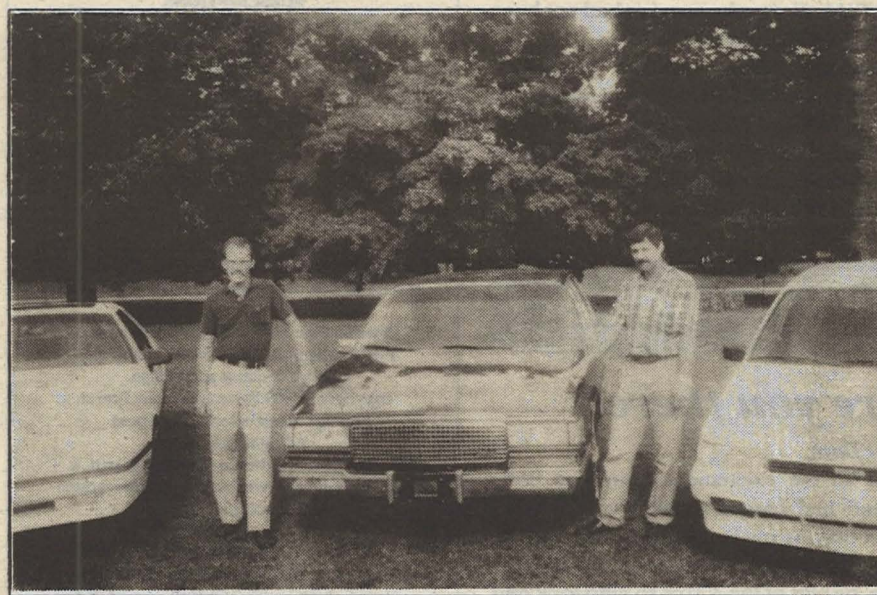
The woman's face glowed with pride as she looked at her sons, who carried banners reading "No one is free until all are free," and chanting "Hey, hey, ho, ho! Homophobia's got to go!"

**THOSE CHILDREN** know, first-hand, the dangers of homophobia, yet they remain steadfast and proud of their mothers' lives and their own. They provided a touching reminder, a hopeful prediction of what a world free from homophobia could be like.

They gave purpose to our marches, meaning to our chants. They gave a new perspective to our movement and we are glad they were there. •

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## VIEWS

## Report card time

NASHVILLE'S NEWS MEDIA have, in the main, vastly improved their performance in coverage of Pride Week activities this year. *The Tennessean* gave prominent front-page space to photos of the parade Sunday morning, and fairly matter-of-fact reportage that didn't fall for the temptation to focus too heavily on the religious nuts and skinhead hoodlums.

Good position and fair (though shallow) coverage earns *The Tennessean* a B.

The *Nashville Banner* certainly equalled *The Tennessean's* restraint Monday afternoon (the *Banner* does not publish on Sundays) with its photography—a large photo of marchers including a diverse sample of participants—but neglected to devote any copy to the story, instead using a sidebar on the display of a portion of the NAMES Project National AIDS Quilt [see story on page 1].

However, *Banner* editors had no qualms about shoving coverage of our community's most public event under the rug, dumping it on page 2 of section B. That drops them to a truly average C.

Television stations were a mixed bag.

WKRN, Channel 2, and WSMV, Channel 4, both reported the day's events: Channel 2 did a fine job, with anchor Lauren Thierry discussing the tape fairly and evenly for a B+, while the usually-smirking John Siegenthaler, Jr., managed this time to keep a straight [pardon] face while talking about lesbians and gay men to improve Channel 4's grade to a solid B this year. WTVF, Channel 5, gets a great big fat F for its use of sensational network tape of the New York parade while completely ignoring lesbian and gay Tennesseans.

Gay Cable Network coverage had not been cablecast at press time.

OVERALL, LOCAL MEDIA performed markedly better this year. Acknowledgment of our existence and fairness seemed to be the rules. Except for the dunce cap Channel 5 grabbed, the media did a good job all around.

Now about those politicians... •

## BOX 40422

## Were you there?

Dear Dare,

After all the excitement from Gay Pride weekend had passed, I felt I couldn't rest without making my feelings known.

I am very proud of my sexuality, so it wasn't hard to be part of the 300 or so who took part in the March on Saturday, but where are the hundreds who were out on Saturday night at the bars? Why weren't you marching? Where were the female impersonators who promised to be there? How about the ball teams, bowling teams, the Conductors, etc.?

Why wasn't each bar represented? I want to thank Steve Smith from Warehouse 28 for his support for being there and bringing the balloon arch. I also want to thank GCN [Gay Cable Network], T-GALA [Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance] and *Dare* for all their hard work.

Remember, when your rights are taken away one by one: Don't complain, unless you're willing to help.

MICHAEL L. ARWOOD  
Nashville

## Dare

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

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

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## SOAPBOX

## Learning a new chant

by SCOTT McMAHAN

Special to Dare

WHEN I CAME TO Nashville last Thursday, I had plans to live it up in the clubs here.

In Fort Lauderdale and Miami I have a reputation as a serious "club kid." I'm in the clubs there practically every night of the week doing what my friends and I do best. Sometimes blending in — almost always standing out — we can be seen wearing the latest street fashions and "getting mental" to the hippest Acid House sounds from London. (I have yet to find that scene here in Nashville, but that's not the point of this story.)

I've been reading a lot lately about Stonewall and the Lesbian and Gay Pride celebrations around the country, but until last Saturday I really didn't understand what it all meant.

When my uncle, [Dare Managing Editor] Jeff Ellis, asked me to ride in the parade on Saturday I said I would, partly because I had not seen him in almost two years, but mostly because it would give me an opportunity to be seen by a lot of people. (We all want to be stars!) I would be riding in the front of the

parade — in a black convertible — leading chants and cheers.

"Just like Jackie Kennedy," I thought.

I'll be the first to admit I wasn't really that serious about this activism thing. That's the kind of thing other people do. And that's great — for them.

At least that's how I felt as I climbed into the back of that car last Saturday afternoon. I was ready to have fun, to become Jackie Kennedy for a little while and then get some lunch and plan what I was going to wear out later that night.

I certainly wasn't ready for what I met along that Parade route. I guess I'm just not accustomed to the anger and bigotry I encountered from the skinheads who continued to pelt us with insults and threats throughout the march.

And the strangest thing is that they look like any number of people you might see me hanging out with any night of the week. I was so sorry they felt that way about us, because I

• continued on page 7

## WAVES

## GWM-TV?

by LAURA TEK

Contributing Writer

WHETHER IT'S AN EARNEST attempt to appease gay and lesbian groups or an effort by the third-place network to tease the right wing fundamentalists, a pat on the back goes to CBS for daring to run a situation comedy called *Doctor, Doctor* which features a continuing character who is gay.

*Doctor, Doctor* premiered June 12 and will air for six weeks on Monday nights at 9:30 p.m. [10:30 Eastern], in the *Kate and Allie* timeslot.

The series stars Matt Frewer (late of *Max Headroom*) as Mike Stratton, an idealistic general practitioner struggling to fit into a high tech, high-pressure medical partnership. His associates try to convince him it's not impossible to be a good doctor and make a good living, but Stratton prefers making house calls and using an old-fashioned bedside manner. He also is a medical advisor on a local TV morning show called *Wake Up, Providence!* (the show's locale is Providence, R.I.) and has just recently published a novel, *Panacaea*.

Mike Stratton is straight, but his much better looking older brother Dick (played by Tony Carriero) is gay.

Dick is tall, dark, handsome, healthy and lisp-free. He is also a writer and book editor, a profession not necessarily gay-male-identified, an attempt by producers to break the stereotypical hairdresser/decorator mold.

This is a noble attempt, but I wish the same had been done for the characters who play his parents. The producers are guilty of using the same old parents-of-gays stereotypes — the mother who "will always love him no matter what" and the father who says "Dick who?" at the mention of his name. This act is tired!

Gay men and lesbians have other types of mothers and fathers besides the ones who only either unconditionally love or thoroughly hate. It's about time the producers realize that.

In spite of this, the producers have made sincere strides. Mike and Dick have been given a very close and affectionate relationship which ignores their different sexual orientations. It was Dick who Mike came to for support, advice and consolation when he received the bad reviews of his book.

A programming executive at CBS' Nashville affiliate (WTVF-channel 5), who asked to remain anonymous, said that "by putting gay characters in limited parts and series, it's a clever way to introduce gay characters and yet avoid having to give any kind of an explanation for it because when the critics finally get around to discovering a gay character, the show will have run its course and be over before any real action can or has to be taken by either side. Keeping it temporary seems to be the way gay and lesbian characters will be portrayed on television at least for a while."

THIS EFFECTIVE STRATEGY may defuse and befuddle the critics, but it doesn't help foster exposure and acceptance of gay men and lesbians on television.

But CBS' decision to air this show is still to be applauded and WTVF's decision to broadcast the series in its prime time slot is likewise to be cheered. The decision to air *Doctor, Doctor* is a step, however small, in the advancement of TV's gay and lesbian characters.

WTVF's spokesperson does not know how often the Dick Stratton character will appear (although he is listed in the show's credits as a regular). Summer-replacement series are rarely available for preview by critics, but WTVF is keeping an eye open for any criticism.

We encourage you to call WTVF at (615) 248-5240 and express your support for *Doctor, Doctor*. And write to CBS, Audience Services Department, 51 West 52nd Street, New York, NY, 10019. •



## C U R T A I N S

*The Blood Knot*

by JEFF ELLIS  
Managing Editor

**ATHOL FUGARD'S** *The Blood Knot* is a disturbing play, a frightfully discomfiting look at the squalor and despair that is South Africa.

Although first produced in 1964, the drama — being presented through Sunday, July 2, as a part of Tennessee Repertory Theatre's (TRT) Second Stage endeavor — remains startlingly contemporary in its focus. It is not an easily understood work, but rather it is a vaguely mysterious yet darkly lyrical play about two brothers — one dark-skinned, one light-skinned — in a "colored" settlement near Port Elizabeth.

Fugard's script, although enlightening in its portrayal of the two brothers' struggle to eke out a meager existence, is nonetheless riddled with unanswered questions. Fugard offers little, if any, explanation of the brothers' lives and the audience is left to figure out what is meant by much of the action onstage.

Perhaps the drama was written and is performed for a truly enlightened audience who know all about the ills of South Africa. But, unfortunately, few audience members are well-enough read to completely understand what's going on. Most people have a passing interest in South African politics, some people even have an impassioned interest, but a brief explanation in the program would have helped both the neophyte and the expert. The average Nashville theater-goer doesn't understand the differences in South Africa's caste system.

Frankly, when I left the theater, I felt stupid. I couldn't really say what went on in the play. Some things were clear: two brothers, living in a shack, struggle under the oppression of apartheid, dreaming of owning a small farm. Amid the squalid conditions of their lives, they recall the youth of which they were robbed, the mother they shared, the pain and deprivation.

*The Blood Knot* remains an emotional, provocative work. Morris, the lighter-skinned of the two, attempted to pass for white and has returned home after experiencing unnamed

horrors. Zach, the darker-skinned, rails at the inequities of life and the bigotry to which he is daily subjected in his menial job.

As Zach, TRT stalwart Barry Scott is finally given the opportunity to display his talents as an actor. Heretofore, Scott's talents have been squandered in roles that might best be considered throwaways. When given the chance at a truly demanding role, he excels, giving a performance that is at once both tremendously appealing and strangely frightening.

Unfortunately, Scott's skillful portrayal cannot compensate for the pedestrian performance of Myke Mueller as Morris. Mueller's



Myke Mueller, left, and Barry Scott in TRT's *The Blood Knot*. — PHOTO ARCH BISHOP

obvious miscasting is proven by a performance that is little more than a two-dimensional caricature, relying primarily on exaggerated facial expressions to affect a characterization. Mueller is a good actor, but his performance in *The Blood Knot* does nothing to prove that.

Technically, *The Blood Knot* is superb, with evocative sets and lighting. The intimate setting of West End United Methodist

Church's fourth-floor performance space provides an ideal arena for such offerings.

But, for the sake of the audience, new seating is desperately needed: the folding chairs currently in use are, without doubt, the most uncomfortable pieces of furniture ever encountered.

TRT'S SECOND STAGE endeavor is designed, writes artistic director Mac Pirkle in the program, to allow the production of works considered "different" from those usually included in mainstage offerings and to examine various topics of interest to the community. In its initial offering, *Night Mother* (another two-character drama) the subject was suicide.

Although both *Night Mother* and *The Blood Knot* can hardly be called commercial vehicles for any theater group, they nonetheless offer theater-goers an alternative to the usual slate of warmed-over musical comedies and Neil Simon farces that so often make up the Nashville theater season. •

whether they wanted it or not.

**BEFORE IT WAS OVER** I had lost my voice (but my tan was deeper). I had learned a lot about myself and about the people of Nashville. I made some new friends and saw some people I wanted to get to know.

I'm going back to Fort Lauderdale next week with a sense of myself that I didn't have before I came here.

Now I know the importance of standing up for our rights. I understand the importance of refusing to be content, of just sitting back and letting someone else do the talking for me.

If our voice is going to be heard, and make a difference, it has to be heard every day and it has to be loud.

Listen closely and, from down around Fort Lauderdale, you'll hear my big mouth.

And I'll be listening for yours. •

## M A R K E T

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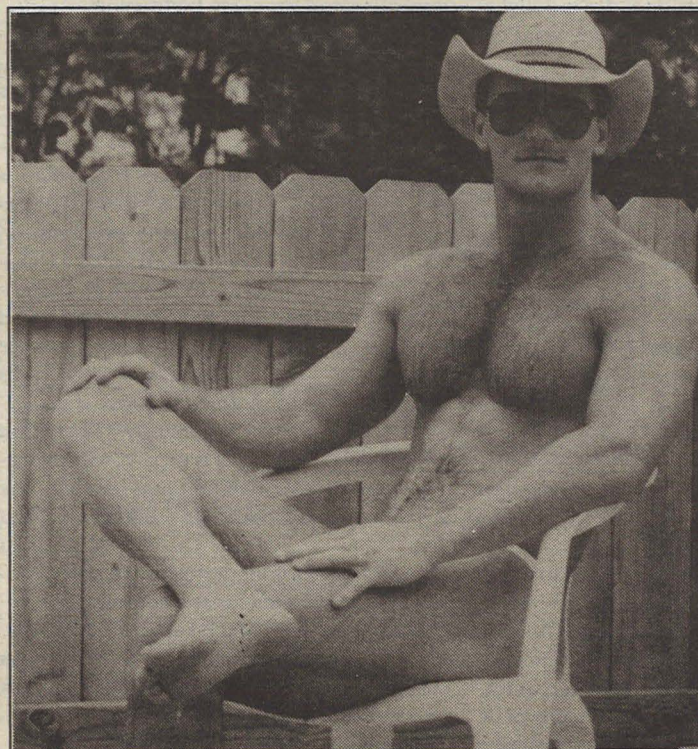
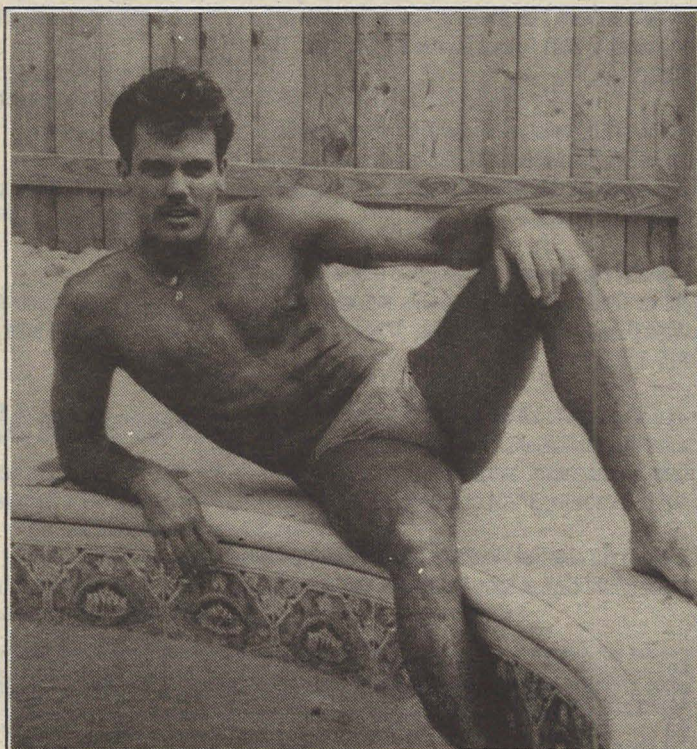
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