

VOLUME 2. NUMBER 28

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

TULY 14-20, 1989

NY court recognizes gay family

by STUART BIVIN

New York's highest court last Thursday made legal history with a precedent-setting decision recognizing the validity of same-sex families

The 4-2 decision by the state's Court of Appeals held a gay male couple who had lived together for ten years to be a family for purposes of New York City's rent-control law. [New York is different from most states, including Tennessee, in that its Supreme Court is a trial court, and its Court of Appeals is the state's highest judicial authority.]

"Today's decision is a groundbreaking victory for lesbians and gay men. It marks the most important single step forward in American law toward legal recognition of lesbian and gay relationships," American Civil Liberties Union staff attorney William B. Rubinstein, who argued the case, told The New York Times.

The July 6 decision reversed a lower appeals court's ruling and blocked the eviction of Michael Braschi from the apartment he shared with his lover Leslie Blanchard, who died from AIDS-related complications in September, 1986. Blanchard held the lease on the rentcontrolled apartment, and after his death, Stahl Associates, the building's owner, moved to evict Braschi.

New York City's strict rent-control



Anthony Dickens (the King), strikes a pose in the Circle Players production of *The King and I*. The community theatre's production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical continues through July 30 at Nashville's St. Cecelia Academy Theatre. — PHOTO COURTESY CIRCLE PLAYERS

laws mandate below-market rents for the city's 167,000 apartments built before 1947 that have been continuously occupied by the same tenant since 1971. The city's inflated real estate prices have made rent-controlled apartments all the more valuable to tenants.

The court takes a new look at the legal definition of "family."

Judge Vito J. Titone wrote for the majority that protection against eviction "should not rest on fictitious legal distinctions or genetic history, but instead should find its foundation in the reality of family life."

Instead, the court said that "a more realistic, and certainly equally valid, view of a family includes two adult • continued on page 3

Hate Crimes bill OK'd

House passes act on Stonewall anniversary

by JEFF ELLIS

Managing Editor

Some twenty years after the nowfamous Stonewall riots signaled the beginning of the modern lesbian and gay civil rights movement, members of the U.S. House of Representatives gave their approval to the Hate Crimes Statistics Act.

House passage of the hate crimes bill — which now moves to the Senate for consideration — came on the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) began efforts to obtain federal response to anti-lesbian/gay violence seven years ago.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act, which passed overwhelmingly by a vote of 368-47 on a suspension of the rules, requires the federal collection of statistics on crimes motivated by prejudice based on "race, religion, homosexuality, heterosexuality or ethnicity."

The senate version of the bill is pending floor action, but Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) is expected to attach an anti-gay amendment to the bill during floor debate.

"Having this bill pass the House of Representatives on a suspension of normal House rules signals how far NGLTF has brought the issue of antigay/lesbian violence. Rules are normally suspended for only the most non-controversial issues," said NGLTF legislative director Peri Jude Radecic.

Passage of the bill in the House comes only weeks after the release of new hate crime statistics compiled by NGLTF's Anti-Violence Project, which indicate that criminal activity directed at lesbians and gay men continues to be a problem throughout the country.

"The report is our annual wake-up call to the American people, to public officials, to the media, to teachers and to clergy," said NGLTF's Kevin Berrill. "It is our reminder to the nation that the price of anti-gay bigotry is paid in human lives lost and in immeasurable suffering for the

• continued on page 3

Gay Cable in jeopardy

by JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Massive funding reductions in the Metro Nashville budget, which could cripple Nashville's community access television (CAT), could possibly spell an end to Gay Cable Network.

Those are the disturbing facts leading up to next Tuesday's third and final reading of the Metro budget for the upcoming fiscal year. If members of the Metro council approve Mayor Bill Boner's budget, • continued on page 3

McWherter advocates choice; NOW organizes to fight anti-abortion forces

by JEFF ELLIS

Managing Editor

While pro-choice advocates began statewide grassroots organizing of their forces, Tennessee Gov. Ned Ray McWherter Tuesday said he hoped the legislature will leave untouched the state's abortion laws.

McWherter's comments came just eight days after a Supreme Court ruling gave states more freedom to impose new restrictions regarding abortions.

McWherter said that although he "personally opposes" abortion, he believes it is a woman's right "to control her own destiny." The governor's statement, in his first public acknowledgment of the Supreme

Court's ruling, was met with approval by pro-choice activists.

Last week, a divided Supreme Court ruled that states are free to impose new restrictions on abortions, stopping just short of overturning its landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. In a series of new rulings, justices — by a 5-4 vote — upheld several provisions of a Missouri law that imposed new restraints.

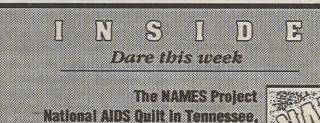
The justices' ruling came just three days after U.S. District Judge John T. Nixon ruled unconstitutional a Tennessee law requiring minors to get both parents' permission before having an abortion. The law would have gone into effect on Saturday, July 1, had Nixon not acted Friday,

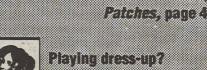
June 30

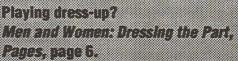
According to Wanda Mathis, of the Tennessee chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), the Supreme Court's ruling has precipitated a groundswell of public support for pro-choice forces.

"The decision has pushed organizers in Murfreesboro into high gear to get a NOW chapter going," Mathis said. "There have been organizational efforts under way in other cities throughout the state, even in smaller ones like Lawrenceburg."

Mathis said that pro-choice activists are gearing up for activity during the next legislative session and is in the process of targeting certain • continued on page 7







This time, Donna Summer knows It's for real. Quotes, page 8.





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If you do, then we're looking for you. Dare is always looking for reliable women and men who can write clearly. A background in journalism is helpful, but not necessary. You bring the commitment. We'll provide the training.

Be a part of the team that makes Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly happen.

Get in touch with us at (615) 327-Dare or Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422.



Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly

Mondays

Tuesdays

Pheenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonym 5:30 and 8pm. Info 901 272-9459.

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

P-FLAB (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Support group. St. John's Episcopal Church, 322 S Greer. 1st Thursday only. Into 901 761-1444.

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

linto the Light (Women's Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 276-7379.

Fridays

Saturdays

Twisted Sisters (ACOA) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. Noon. Info 901 276-7379.

Pleasaix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Cente 8pm. Info 901 272-3459.

Agape New Life C 901 276-1872. Hely Trinity Comminio 901 726-9443.

lete the Light (Women's Alcohol Center, Noon, Info 901 276-7379. olics Anonymous) Meeting, Memphis Lambda

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

Mondays

Rey Overcetors Anonymous Open meeting for lesbian and gay overceters.
MCC, 5:30pm. Info 615-32/-4614.

Nealwille CARES ARC/Alt. Support Group, 6:30pm. Info 615-385-1510.

Lambde Breup Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 8pm.

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

Tuesdays

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

Al-Anen Closed meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.

P-FLAB Meeting of Perents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 4th Tuesday only. Unifarian Church. 7:30pm. Info 615-662-0332.

BTSSI Lambde Association Meeting for lesbian and gay Middle Tennesse Meeting for lesbian and gay Middle Tennesse.

mbde Acceptation Meeting for lesbian and gay Middle Tennessee ersity students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Murfreesboro. 7pm. Info 615

ss Closed meeting for gay men and lesbians. MCC.

Thursdays

Closed women's meeting. First Church Unity.

Fridays

Saturdays

Sundays

Special Events

Saturday, July 15

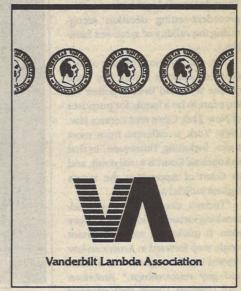
Cookout Gay Women's Social Group cookout and Memphis Chicks baseball outing. Memphis. Hot dogs and chips, 5:30pm. Game starts at 7:15pm. Info 901-324-6949

Sunday, July 23

Brunch Black and White Men Together/Memphis. At the Public Eye, Overton Square, 17 South Cooper, Memphis. Noon, Info 901-452-5894.

Monday, July 24

Consciousness Raising Black and White Men Together/Memphis. Main Library, 1850 Peabody Ave, Memphis. 7:30pm. Info 901-726-1461.



Thursday, July 26

Night Out Progressive drinks and dinner. Vanderbilt Lambda, Nashville. Meet at Peabody President's House, 1801 Edgehill, at 6pm. Dinner at 12th and Porter, 8pm. Info 615-297-5352.

Friday, July 27

Movie Night Vanderbilt Lambda outing to see original (1966) Batman film. Sarratt Cinema, Vanderbilt University, Nashville. 8pm. \$2.50. Info 615-297-5352.

Saturday, July 29

Playshop Mid-Summer Night's Kream, sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Memphis. Info 901-452-

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.

... Hate Crimes legislation approved

• continued from page 1

victims, their loved ones and our entire community."

Task Force figures show that a record total of 7,248 incidents of anti-lesbian/gay violence and harassment were reported in 1988, an increase of 240 over the previous year.

The 7,248 anti-gay incidents recorded nationwide in 1988 in the Task Force report included 4,835 incidents of verbal harassment; 885 physical assaults/objects thrown; 713 threats of violence; 449 incidents of vandalism; 205 cases of verbal or physical abuse by police; seven homicides; 54 bomb threats and nine cases of arson.

In Tennessee, tracking of incidents directed at lesbians and gay men is conducted by means of a hotline operated by the American Civil Liberties Union, through its Nashville office.

According to ACLU's Julie Berbiglia, the hotline has tallied only 15 incidents relating to sexual orientation since January 1 of this year.

"The reports have been of on-the-job harassment or firings due to sexual orientation," Berbiglia said. "We've also got reports of people being denied housing on the basis of their being gay or lesbian." In addition, 14 reports of AIDS-related discriminatory or violent incidents have been reported.

"The reports primarily have been concerning job discrimination or the denial of employment because someone has AIDS. But we've also had complaints about denial of housing or leaks in testing confidentiality," Berbiglia said.

Berbiglia said the relatively low number of incidents reported in Tennessee probably falls far below the number of actual occurrences of anti-lesbian/gay discrimination or violence.

"Many times when people are discriminated against in the workplace, they probably think something can be done. But when the dis-

crimination is on a more personal level — threats, verbal abuse — it may not be seen as an attack on a group of individuals, so it goes unreported," Berbiglia said. "Many times people feel helpless when they are the victims of harassment, discrimination or physical or verbal abuse. They may even have the feeling that it's just not that important."

Berbiglia said reporting is important if ACLU is to report accurately anti-lesbian/gay acts.

"We want to stress the importance of the hotline and the importance of the report we plan to prepare using the data collected," she said. "We want to show both legislators and the public that, in reality, people in Tennessee are being harassed and threatened."

The report, compiled from data collected by ACLU, will be forwarded to members of the state legislature as part of a lobbying effort to pass a hate crimes bill in Tennessee. In addition, ACLU plans a series of educational programs, for members of both the public and private sectors, to highlight the problem of acts of violence or discrimination directed toward members of a particular group or minority.

ACLU's Tennessee anti-gay/lesbian hotline is (615) 320-7142.

The relative ease with which the Hate Crimes Statistics Act was passed by the House could sway public opinion, Radecic said.

"During the 100th Congress the legislation went through normal House procedures and we won 383-29. The vote last year and the clear bipartisan vote in the Judiciary Committee [33-1] on June 20, enabled the House to suspend the rules and pass this bill less than one week after Committee action," she said.

Radecic attributed the successful vote in the House in part to grassroots organizing and constituent lobbying by lesbian and gay activists nationwide.

...NY court recognizes gay families

• continued from page 1

lifetime partners whose relationship is longterm and characterized by an emotional and financial commitment and interdependence." That approach includes unmarried heterosexual couples as well.

Titone set forth a five-part test for relationships qualifying as families under the rentcontrol law:

 the relationship's "exclusivity and longevty"

- the couple's "level of emotional and financial commitment"
- the way a couple has "conducted their everyday lives and held themselves out to society"
- the "reliance placed upon one another for daily family services"
- and the "totality of the relationship as evidenced by the dedication, caring and selfsacrifice of the parties which should, in the final analysis, control."

...GCN in jeopardy

• continued from page 1

it appears likely that CAT's channel 35 will cease operation at the end of the month.

Under the plan submitted by Boner and his chief budget aide Butch Eley, funding for CAT has been reduced to \$54,000.

If CAT is forced to close channel 35, some of the programming — including the Tuesday and Saturday cablecast of GCN — could be shown on channel 33, the local government access channel. However, before any programming normally aired on channel 35 is allowed to be cablecast on channel 33, producers will have to submit a proposal to local government officials.

Under that scenario, only time would tell if GCN can continue on cable television or if its backers will have to seek some other broadcast options.

Earlier this year, *Dare* reported that Metro courthouse sources say cuts in the CAT budget is a slap on the wrist by the Boner administra-

tion because of the decision to air GCN.

"We don't have a plan of attack at the present," said Krzyzstof Krakoviak, GCN general manager. "Some programming may be integrated into the government access channel and, if that is the case, perhaps GCN will find a new home.

"But we're not giving up. I'm still very positive, very optimistic about the future of Gay Cable Network in Nashville."

Krakoviak said that new resources will have to be found if GCN is forced to move to regular broadcast channels.

"If GCN leaves the air, I'm afraid we won't be missed by a large portion of the public and I think that is very said. We just haven't had time to build up our audience," Krakoviak said. "If we lose GCN, I think it would be a great step backward for the local lesbian and gay community. Television provides a wonderful medium to be explored for use by our community."

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Dare

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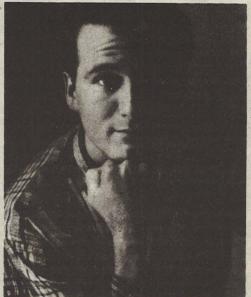
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Phillip: I sure do.

That surprises me. A lot of people don't like to talk about AIDS.

<u>Phillip</u>: 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.

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

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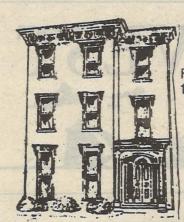
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PATC

The NAMES Project National Al



The Quilt almost always evokes strong responses from those who view it. — PHOTO CHRIS HARDY, COURTESY SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

by HARRISON HICKS



The NAMES Project National AIDS Quilt of anniversary of its original display at the National COURTESY SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

losing ceremonies commemorating the showing of 302 panels from the NAMES Project National AIDS Quilt were held Friday night, July 7, at Vanderbilt University's Benton Chapel. The panels, each representing an individual who has died from AIDS-related causes, had been on display there since June 26. The display closed Sunday, July 9.

Fredia Wadley, Nashville Metro health commissioner, delivered the keynote address. Declaring that "history will not speak very kindly" of the initial response to the AIDS crisis, particularly that of the federal government, Wadley called the Quilt an important part of the effort to raise people's consciousness about AIDS and its effects.

"This quilt is for our awareness," said Wadley, who stated her belief in the quilt as a living memorial. "It [the quilt] reminds us there are still people who need our help."

The reading of the names of those memorialized in the displayed panels followed Wadley's address. The recitation, a standard part of Quilt services, was divided among several community members. Readers included representatives from Nashville CARES; Matt Nelson of the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment and George Reynolds, bishop of the Episcopalian Diocese of Tennessee. Other readers were attorney Abby Rubenfeld; Paul Tucker, pastor of Metropolitan Community Church/Nashville; Ron Watson, proprietor of Mills

Book Stores; Greg Fisher; Wadley; Mike Blevins, owner of Juanita's Bar and Steve Smith, owner of Warehouse 28.

In an emotional moment, Reg Laswell, administrative coordinator of AIDS Southern Kentucky, presented a panel to be added to those on display. The panel, Laswell said, was to honor his lover, Trace Godbey, who died in February of this year. Saying that love and grief went into each stitch, Laswell said Godbey's panel meant several things to him: "It gives me an opportunity to tell you that I am proud that I had the chance to love this man. It lets me say that I am not ashamed that he had AIDS. It symbolizes an offering of my grief to God who sustains me. It is a way of sharing my love and grief with all the others who put their love and grief into making the panels of this magnificent quilt."

Tucker closed the ceremonies by recalling the growth of the Quilt since its 1987 beginning, when it had 1902 panels. With the Quilt now encompassing almost 10,000 panels, Tucker said, "It would be hard for me to imagine anyone not being moved by this memorial." He added that no one could rest until "the day no more panels will be added to this quilt."

The service ended with the 90 attending lighting candles and silently filing out of the chapel, extinguishing the candles as they exited to symbolize the impact of AIDS.

H E S

al AIDS Quilt visits Tennessee



AIDS Quilt on display at the Ellipse in Washington, D.C., in October of 1988, the first the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. — PHOTO CHRIS HARDY,

Quilt Facts

ALTHOUGH ONLY a small portion (302 of over 10,000 panels) of the Quilt was displayed here, the full Quilt bears some astonishing and sobering statistics.

№ Funds raised for direct services for people with AIDS: \$570,000 (U.S.) \$655,500 (CAN)

Number of vistiors to Quilt: 1.2 million

Total weight: 16 tons

Number of panels: 8,920

Total seams: 317,664 feet (60.16 miles)

Canvas edging: 62,871 feet (11.91 miles)

► Walkway fabric: 28,184 feet (5.34 miles)

Countries represented: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Republic, West Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, all fifty United States (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico)

Frequently-appearing names:
Jon Sims, Gerry Parker, Roger Lyon

Panels for siblings: Stuart and Robert Goodman, Walter and Mark Hanson, Sydney and Jim Soons, James, Henry and John Campbell

* Panels for parents and their children: Nancy and Bosco Jr., Elizabeth

ALTHOUGH ONLY a small portion and Maria Prophet, John and Matsuko 02 of over 10,000 panels) of the Ouilt Gaffney

Panels for celebrities: Michael Bennett, Mel Boozer, Arthur Bressan Jr., Roy Cohn, Perry Ellis, Wayland Flowers, Michel Foucault, Philip-Dimitri Galas, Rock Hudson, Liberace, Charles Ludlam, Court Miller, Ed Mock, Klaus Nomi, Willi Smith, Chuck Solomon, Christopher Stryker, Stephen Stucker, Sylvester

• Unusual panels: Stephen Quesada
— made from Buddhist's saffron robe;
Mark Metcalf — made of leather; Chuck
Morris — made from quilt Chuck made
years ago; To John — made from hooked
rug he and his lover crafted years ago

Materials in quilt: Clear vinyl, leather, plastic, burlap, silk, taffeta, corduroy, carpet, suede, lamé, shirts, jeans, shower curtains, afghans, a 100-year-old quilt, Barbie doll, cremation ashes, stuffed animals, hats, racing silks, photographs, records, incense, silk flowers, lace, state flags, rainbow flags, human hair, fur, mink, buttons, feather boas, pins, corsets, first-place ribbons, merit badges, gloves, dresses, jewelry, fishnet hose, mardi gras masques, rhinestones, studs, pearls, glitter, wedding rings and lots of sequins.

* The Quilt has panels representing 16% of all U.S. AIDS deaths and .05% of AIDS deaths worldwide. •

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JULY 30 AND 31

Wiss Continental Southeast

Pageant

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VIEWS

The unattainable

THE LAST YEAR has brought evidence of some startling, and most welcome, changes in the way our government looks at us. Two recent events, in particular, have pointed up the lesbian and gay community's hard-won gains since the Stonewall riots twenty years ago.

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a comprehensive Hate Crimes Statistics Act, which directs the Justice Department to gather information about hate-motivated crimes, including those motivated by hatred of lesbians and gay men.

Then, late last week, New York State's highest court handed down a decision that recognized same-sex relationships as families. The precedent-setting decision opens the door to the possibility one day of full-fledged legal recognition of lesbian and gay couples' families.

Needless to say, neither event could have happened twenty years ago, ten years ago or even as recently as five. The possibility of either must have seemed so remote as to be non-existent to those who laid the groundwork for us.

But the remoteness of their dreams did not stop them from pushing for fairness and justice. It did not stop them from standing up for their human rights. It did not stop them from working to right the wrongs done in the name of "morality," of "religion," of "nature." Instead, those who pioneered the lesbian and gay movement turned their frustration into action, their rage into determination, their fear into courage. They went around the naysayers who urged them not to make waves, and began, little by little, to stand and fight for change.

AND NOW THEIR LEGACY is the foundation of our dreams.

As the accomplishments of our movement accumulate, each building upon the others, we have a larger and brighter future to wake up to.

Someday, we'll see the Senate pass a Hate Crimes bill, and even a lesbian and gay rights bill

Someday, we'll see a Tennessee court recognize our families.

Someday, we'll step back and see all those remote dreams become reality, if we just don't give up. •

BOX 40422

Unwanted titles

Dear Dare,

Help! I'm getting titles that aren't mine to get. The Tennessean (you know, that other paper) recently called me the president of the Pride Week Committee (we don't have a president), and in last week's Dare I was identified as coordinator of Pride '89.

I did coordinate, but so did many other people, so I just wanted to set the record straight (pardon the expression). Thanks for the coverage, the pictures, and all your hard work.

Sincerely,
PENNY CAMPBELL
Nashville

Dare

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

"I am the Love that dare not speak its name."

— Lord Alfred Douglas, "The Two Loves," 1892

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> Publisher STUART BIVIN

Managing Editor

Book Editor SHERRE DRYDEN

Staff Writers
CAROLE CUNNINGHAM
HARRISON HICKS
JOE MAROHL

Contributing Writers
JASON ANDERSON
TIM BULLARD
ROBIN CONOVER
LAURA TEK

Advertising Sales
BRIAN HULSE

Dare logo designed by RUSEL BROWN



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ARCHIVES

Dave is available on microfilm at the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

PARES

Men and Women: Dressing the Part

Men and Women: Dressing the Part. Edited by Claudia Brush Kidwell and Valerie Steele.

Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1989. 188 pages.

reviewed by SHERRE DRYDEN

Book Fditor

MENAND WOMEN: Dressing the Part may be a disappointment or a delight, depending upon what you expect and how much you already know about the relationship between gender and appearance.

A reader expecting an in-depth feminist examination of the politics of appearance will be disappointed. Most of the issues covered by the essays that make up *Dressing the Part* are given much more comprehensive attention in other works. Kidwell and Steele and their collaborators chart little new ground on the subject of gender and dress, instead generally limiting their discussions to historical overviews — that clothing became "gendered" more than how or why it became so.

The book's scope also precludes a discussion of some points. In the manner of many

social historians lately, Barbara Schreier, in the Introduction, admits the book's limitations (principally that it is restricted to middleclass white Americans), forestalling charges of race or class bias much stronger than that offering excuses is no excuse. An essay that looked at women's class and the relative "masculinity" of their dress, for example, would have fit easily into the book's scope and would have

subject.



scope and would have "Rosie the Riveter" wore "men's pants and fancy made excuses unnec- underwear." — PHOTO U.S. BUREAU OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Still, *Dressing the Part* has a lot to offer as an introduction, and the information is not without interest, even to a reader familiar with the

Valerie Steel begins the collection by addressing background issues, how clothing in general seems to have developed, the persistence throughout history of sex-specific garments, the genesis of thinness as a female ideal. In the process she presents some interesting history: There seems to be a lack of correlation between clothing and protection from the elements (Charles Darwin reported that residents of Tierra del Fuego wore only paint and jewelry, despite the wet, icy climate). The idea that fancy clothing for men was effeminate is intertwined with 18th-century English political attacks on the French court.

The "tradition" of pink girls and blue boys is a relatively recent phenomenon (it used to be the opposite), dating in America only to the 1920s. The resulting essay is as good an introduction to the relationship between "outward appearance and our definitions of masculinity and femininity" as a beginner could want — even if it does read a little like an article from American Heritage (or Smithsonian).

Steele is a decided constructionist when it comes to gender. "Biological differences between men and women do not cause different social roles or lead to different forms of clothing," she states flatly.

Probably no one would seriously propose that there is an "essentially female" or "biologically male" way of dressing.

The wildly different ways that women and men do and have dressed would make such a position uncomfortably difficult to support. But many scholars have suggested a biological motive — sexual attraction and thus continuation of the species — for clothing in general and sex-specific clothing in particular. Steele and her collaborators reject this notion repeatedly. For them, the fact that "gendered" dress is so demonstrably artificial and inconsistent supports their belief that all gender-linked behavior is constructed.

I have no objection to this opinion (in fact, I might even espouse it), but, for Steele in particular, it leads to rather condescending rejec-

tions of opposing opinions. This tendency is revealed most graphically in passages that can only be described as Alison Lurie trashing. For example, Steele accuses Lurie of being simplistic (but amusing) when Lurie regards men's ties and umbrellas as phallic.

Yet Steele discounts
Lurie's belief that
people's clothing
choices have a sexual
message with the
seemingly also simplistic statement "A
woman may dress to

look beautiful, sometimes to attract sexual admiration, but only rarely with the aim of actually seducing the viewer(s)."

This is merely an annoyance, however (as is two writers' apparent failure to compare notes about the prevalence or non-prevalence of tight-lacing among Victorian women), rather than a serious detraction.

Men and Women: Dressing the Part is both a good beginning point for a study of the relationship between gender and clothing and an interesting book for the casual reader of social history.



Who wears the pants? He says: "Rather die! than let my wife have my pants." She: "Woman is born to rule and not to obey those contemptible creatures called men!" (1855) — ILLUSTRATION THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The King and I

The King and I. Circle Players, at St. Cecelia Academy Theatre. Directed by Rick Seay.
reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**Managing Editor

RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN's lushly scored *The King and I* provides the perfect respite from the hot and humid Nashville summer, thanks to the elegantly-mounted production from Circle Players.

Performed in the serviceable St. Cecilia Academy Theatre, the musical — a stalwart of countless community theaters' repertoires — provides a pleasant diversion from the harried days of the late 1980s. Although the show was first produced in 1954, its story remains timeless, its music captivating.

From "I Whistle a Happy Tune", the song

which opens the musical program, to the rousing "Shall We Dance" which comes near the end of act two, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II created some of their most memorable compositions for *The King and I*.

The songs, many of which we've heard all our lives it seems, are among the theater's greatest gifts to future generations.

And thanks to superb productions — like Circle

Players' — by some of the country's leading community theaters, the story of Anna Leonowens and the King of Siam will live forever. The musical, and its predecessor (Anna and the King), tells of a widowed English woman's efforts to educate the King's children, thereby bringing the ancient kingdom into modern times.

It is a story every theater lover knows by heart: headstrong woman meets stubborn man. Surrounding them, among all the intrigue and excitement attendant to life in a palace, are various people involved in any number of romantic subplots.

Karen Mueller is a believable Anna (although her vaguely British accent seems to come and go — often sounding like Hollywood's idea of a society matron), cloaking her strong will with typical British reserve. Her voice is lovely — poignantly so in "Hello, Young Lovers" — and she seems to grow in both confidence and enthusiasm as the play's action progresses.

As the equally strong-willed King of Siam, Anthony Dickens is beguiling. He proves himself Mueller's equal with a performance that is filled with emotion and the right amount

...abortion rulings

• continued from page 1

legislators for intense lobbying and cam-

"We are at a critical turning point in the fight to preserve women's right to choose," said Hedy Weinberg, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)/Tennessee

"In the past, the struggle has been centered in the courts. Now it is shifting to the political arenas where it will be played out in Congress and in state legislatures and in the court of public opinion," Weinberg said.

The Supreme Court ruled last week that

of humor. His King is engaging and attractive, the perfect foil for Anna's cool demeanor.

The pair's "Shall We Dance" number is an infectious romp. We've seen it all before, but thanks to the obvious delight of both Mueller and Dickens, it is given new life. It is an endearing piece of musical comedy history, preserved and enriched by a pair of talented actors.

In supporting roles, Thom Byrum and Jennifer Stuckey (as Lun Tha and Tuptim) sing wonderfully, but manage to deliver performances far below the levels expected. Stuckey's

"My Lord and Master" is superb, as are her duets with Byrum on "We Kiss in a Shadow" and "I Have Dreamed". They are among the show's musical highlights. Their acting, however, is another story.

Liza Taylor's portrayal of Lady Thiang (one of the King's many wives) is sweetly regal, and her performance of "Something Wonderful" is just that — something wonderful. In her only solo, Taylor sings

from the heart, showing us a tender and loving Lady Thiang.

Special notice must be given to Stephanie Hamilton's "The Small House of Uncle Thomas," based on Jerome Robbin's famous choreography. The ballet is performed with energy and wit by Hamilton's troupe, making what is sometimes in other productions the show's weakest moment, perhaps its strongest in this one.

Lushly scored and elegantly produced, the Circle Player's *The King and I* is imbued with a much-needed air of freshness, thanks to the able direction of Rick Seay. He maneuvers his 40-member-plus cast with a deft hand, displaying a remarkable ability to block scenes effectively and beautifully.

SEAY'S EXPERT DIRECTION is given ample support by the colorful sets of Gregg Colson and the superb costumes, borrowed from Crossville's Cumberland County Playhouse's 1988 production. Jane Kelley's orchestra, made up of student talent from throughout the Nashville area, provides the perfect accompaniment to the action onstage.

The show continues at St. Cecilia Academy through July 30. •

states may require doctors to determine through various means of testing if a 20-week-old fetus is considered "viable" — capable of surviving outside the womb. Missouri and many states make it a crime to abort a viable fetus

Roe v. Wade, which found that women have a constitutional right to abortion, prohibited states from protecting fetal life until the 24th week of a pregnancy. Further, it said states may regulate abortions during the second trimester of the pregnancy only to protect the woman's health, and may take steps to protect the fetus' life during the third trimester.

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- · Good luck on those MCATs, Little Debbie. We know you can do it. Just think: then you'll be Dr. Little Debbie. Or is it Little Dr. Debbie? Doctorette Debbie?
- · Grizzly River got me all wet, girls. But the rumble at Andy's house sure got my heart pumpin'. Damn Yankee. It just ain't fittin'.

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Donna's Last Chance

"I was always told the same thing: that a male gay character would be total turnoff for any female in the audience. And I said, 'But I don't believe that.' I never believed that.

"We've now heard from a lot of producers and writers at other shows who say, Thank God you did it, now maybe we can do it.' But if we've only done that, shown that there are stories to tell, there are interesting relationships to deal with and the world isn't going to turn their sets off, then we've accomplished something. I don't have a single regret in telling this story."

- Doug Marland, head writer of the CBS soap opera As the World Turns, on his creation of Hank Elliot, the first continuing gay male character in a soap opera.

"Some of us gay males have been rather upset by this commercial.

"We believe the company should be op-

posed to pulling a gun on anyone's head for any reason."

70-year-old Joseph Norton, a stockholder and relative of the founder of the Kellogg Company, criticizing the cereal maker's controversial television commercial for its Nut 'n' Honey cereal, in which a group of cowboys pull their guns on a male cook who calls one of them "honey." Norton raised the issue before other shareholders at the company's annual meeting.

"When you go through these experiences, we have to be sure we keep broadening our viewpoint. When the noise level reaches a certain point, then perhaps that's a noise level we have to address.

- Kellogg CEO Bill LaMothe, in response to Norton's remarks.

"There's no reason any self-respecting feminist should buy Domino's pizza."

- Jan BenDor, president of the Ann Arbor, Michigan, chapter of the National Organization for Women, on Domino's owner Thomas Monaghan's contribution of over \$50,000 to a Michigan anti-abortion campaign.

"I realize that I have offended a lot of people, but my beliefs are my own. I have no problem with gay people, they should have a problem with themselves.

"Judgment Day is coming."
-Singer Donna Summer, whose new comeback release "This Time I Know It's for Real" is climbing the charts. Summer was defending her repetition of the anti-gay cliché "God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve."

"The 'gay rights movement' seeks to have non-discriminatory laws regarding employment, homeowning and tax and health care benefits extended to homosexuals, not that homosexual acts be forced upon children or unwilling adults."

Nashvillian Martha Bickley, in a letter to the

editor of Nashville's The Tennessean.

"I don't want [my penis] sitting in a jar on some faggot's night table after I die."

— Porn star John Holmes, shortly before his

death from AIDS-related complications, reported in Baltimore's Gaypaper.

"Yet, though Atwater initially defended the Foley smear, Bush stood up for him. Atwater's fouling the civic atmosphere with vicious misinformation is bad enough; compounding that with White House hypocrisy is too much. If Bush really wants to prove himself a political environmentalist in search of a kinder, gentler America, he should sack Atwater."

- Time magazine, in a mini-editorial sidebar to a piece on the Republican National Committee chair Lee Atwater's rumor campaign asserting that newly-elected Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Tom Foley is gay.

> "There is no such thing as a bisexual. Either you suck dick or you don't!"

- Comedian Andrew 'Dice' Clay Hope.

"I believe it is important to note that the outcome of this struggle will depend on the strength and diligence of those of us who believe, regardless of the complex moral, religious and ethical aspects surrounding abortion, that women

are human beings with the right to act freely in regard to contol of their bodies and not lifeless vessels to be filled up and emptied with no voice and no will.

"If the anti-choice, anti-woman zealots win this horrible war, it will not be because of what they do, but by what I and all pro-choice people like me fail to do. The outcome of this struggle does not depend on those who would enslave women; it depends on the response or lack of response by those who support all women's right to liberty and control of their own bodies. Either women's lives matter or they do not. Decide now."

- Nashvillian Donald B. Gibson, in a letter to the editor of The Tennessean.

"My affection for our oldest grandson is just that he's there and he's ready and he plays ball and he does stuff...We're going to the Orioles game tomorrow, I think it is, but it is not discriminatory. It is not discriminatory."

- George Bush, on why he takes his grandson, but not his granddaughters, on fishing trips and to baseball games.

"[It is] unthinkable that any opportunity should be available to my pride and joy, our oldest grandson, George P., that isn't also out there for his cousin Jenna Bush."

George Bush, in a speech to the American Association of University Women.

"I had no idea ["Nikita"] would be taken as a gay song. I still don't quite see why."

— Entertainer Elton John.