

Dare

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 29

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

JULY 21 - 27, 1989

HRCF joins pro-choice forces

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Calling the Supreme Court's *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services* decision a "blow to individual liberty and women's freedom," the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) has vowed to continue its fight for the right of privacy of all Americans and lend its support to a nationwide coalition organized by key pro-choice groups.

"As gays and lesbians concerned about equality and keeping the government out of our bedrooms, we are extremely troubled by the court's decision," said Tim McFeeley, HRCF executive director. "We will look for opportunities to educate politicians and support pro-choice groups as the battle for privacy now moves from the courts to the legislatures."

HRCF is the nation's largest lesbian and gay political action committee (PAC), and the ninth-largest of all national PACs, with a 1989 budget approaching \$2 million.

The Supreme Court earlier this month, in a 5-4 decision, 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 upheld several provisions of a Missouri law that imposed new restraints.

Under the Court's *Webster* ruling, justices gave the apparent green light for state governments to issue new restrictions, including:

- prohibiting state employees from counseling on the option of abortion
- continued on page 3

Metro Council defers CAT budget vote while GCN rallies les/gay community support

by HARRISON HICKS
Staff Writer

Members of the Metro Nashville Council Tuesday night delayed until Tuesday, August 1, any action on proposed cuts in the city's operating budget which would have affected Community Access Television (CAT), which cablecasts Gay Cable Network/Nashville (GCN).

GCN and CAT will be the focus of the latest Metropolitan Community Church/Nashville (MCC) Church and Community Forum next Saturday, July 29.

Council members had been expected to approve Mayor Bill Boner's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. In that proposal, \$54,000 had been allotted for CAT, an amount which is likely to mean the demise of the station as a separate entity.

Council members voted Tuesday night to defer action on the budget again, this time until August 1.

"In some ways, that's a good move

for us," Dixie Aubrey, CAT public relations director, said in an interview Wednesday. "The delay gives us longer to try to convince people on the Council to restore the funds."

"You know, this [the proposed cuts] first came up in the middle of absolute chaos — everyone thought that everyone in Metro was going to be losing jobs. The situation really looked bleak, and they were looking for funds anywhere they could get them," she said. "Now, it's not so bad. Departments will be able to make personnel cuts through attrition, rather than layoffs."

Aubrey said that there was no direct evidence that the proposed cuts are an attempt to silence GCN.

"Unless some Councilman stands up and says that publicly, I can't ascribe that reason just based on hearsay," she said. "I might feel that way, but I don't have any way to confirm it."

Metro government sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity,

told *Dare* when the cuts were announced that they were intended to punish CAT for carrying GCN.

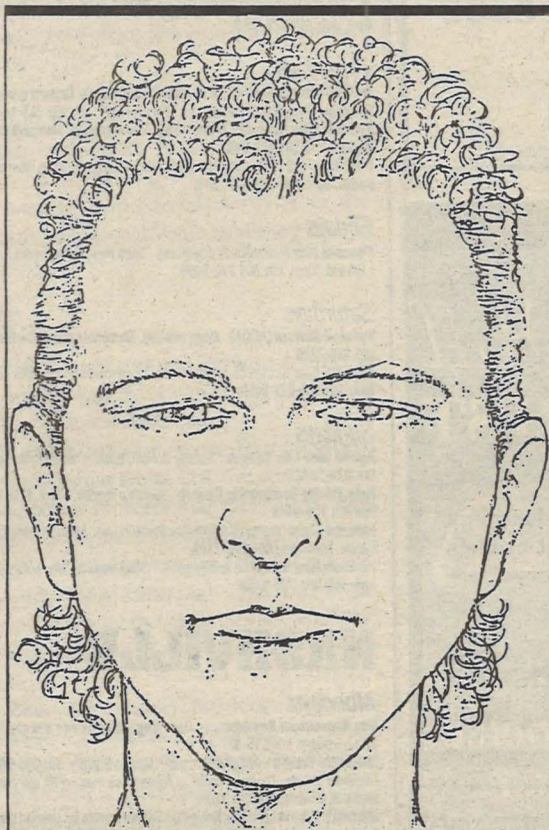
Councilmember George Armistead drew fire last year when he demanded that CAT dump GCN or face dissolution.

Krzysztof Krakowiak, GCN general manager, will be the featured speaker at the MCC forum.

Krakowiak and MCC leaders expressed hope that the forum would offer an opportunity for the city's lesbian and gay community to respond to the outcome of the Council vote on CAT funding and to discuss the future of GCN.

In an interview in last week's *Dare*, Krakowiak was hopeful about GCN's future, saying, "I'm still very positive, very optimistic about the future of GCN in Nashville."

The forum, which is still lining up other guests, is free to the public, and begins at 8:30 p.m., immediately following the church's weekly 7:30 p.m. Community Dinner. •



Metro Nashville police are looking for this man for questioning in connection with the stabbing last week of 34-year-old nurse Barry McDonald. Detectives suspect that the murderer may have been someone McDonald was counseling about AIDS. Anyone with information about the suspect or the murder may phone police at (615) 862-7329 or 862-7546. — METRO NASHVILLE POLICE SKETCH

Gay Nashvillian slain

Metro police concerned for community

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Metro Nashville police are continuing their investigation into the brutal slaying last week of 34-year-old Barry McDonald, which, homicide detectives say, "could have been directly related to his being gay."

McDonald's body was discovered in his home at 2003 Upland Drive, in the Inglewood section of Nashville, by his roommate, Gene Rice, when Rice returned home from vacation last Wednesday. Rice told investigators he had last spoken to McDonald by telephone the previous Sunday night.

Police say McDonald was stabbed some 30 times by a still-unknown assailant. The victim died of stab wounds to the back and chest, according to the police report.

Sources termed the murder "one of the most violent crimes in the city's history."

According to an autopsy report from the Metro medical examiner's office, McDonald was probably murdered sometime on Tuesday, July 11. However, police believe McDonald was murdered on Sunday night.

"It's kind of hard to say if the murder was directly related to Barry being gay," said Det. Terry McElroy of the Metro Murder Squad. "On the surface it has the appearance that another gay person could have been

involved or that the murderer could have done it because Barry was gay."

"But to be honest, the hardest part of this investigation is coming up with the killer's possible motive," he said.

Police are looking for a man for questioning in connection with the murder, McElroy said. The man — who was seen by a neighbor through McDonald's kitchen window on Sunday, July 9 — is described as a white male, about six feet tall, having a slender build and weighing 130-150 pounds. The man is believed to have blond hair which is combed back and cut short on the sides.

The man may be driving a late-model, dark-colored Plymouth Sundance, which was also seen by neighbors in McDonald's driveway.

Information regarding the man police are seeking has been withheld from the city's other media until it was given to *Dare*, McElroy said.

"I don't want someone else in the gay community to be murdered because we failed to let people know the details of the case," McElroy said.

McDonald, a native of Canada, had been living in Nashville for two years. A registered nurse, he was on staff at St. Thomas Hospital. He had been at work until 11 a.m. on Sunday, July 9.

"In our investigation, we have learned that Barry had recently

• continued on page 3

I N S I D E

Dare this week

Poet/activist Luz Maria Umplerre
at Western Kentucky University,
Centerpiece, page 4



The sensible shoes novel:
My Father's Moon,
Pages, page 7.



A triumph Backstage and an
innovative comedy at Actors'.
Curtains, page 8.



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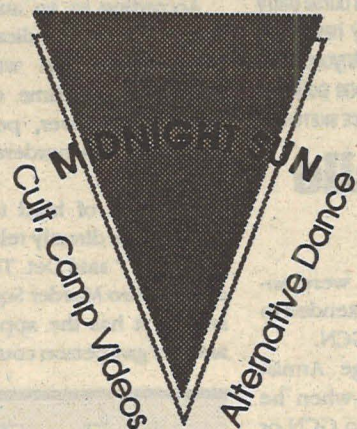
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D A T E S

MEMPHIS

Monday

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

Monday

Gay Overeaters Anonymous Open meeting for lesbian and gay overeaters.
MCC, 5:30pm. Info 615-327-4141.
Nashville CARES ARC/AIDS 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.
Al-Anon Closed meeting, MCC, 6:30pm.
P-FLAG Meeting of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 4th Tuesday
only. Unitarian Church, 7:30pm. Info 615-662-0332.
MTSU Lambda Association Meeting for lesbian and gay Middle Tennessee
State University students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Murfreesboro. 7pm. Info 615-
890-3787.
Seber Sisters (Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous) Closed meeting, MCC, 8pm.
Gay Cable Network Viacom Channel 35 (Community Access Television). 9pm.

Wednesdays

Sex Addicts Anonymous Closed meeting for gay men and lesbians. MCC.
5:30pm.
Nashville CARES 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

Incident 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

Sexualities Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC, 5pm.
Nichols Anonymous Program Study Group Meeting, Belmont United
Methodist, 7:30 pm.

Saturdays

Incident 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.
Incident Survivors Anonymous Closed meeting, First Church Unity, Franklin
Rd, 8pm.

Special Events

Saturday, July 22

Women's Dance Nashville Women's Alliance, at the
Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd.,
Nashville. Free. 8:30pm.

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

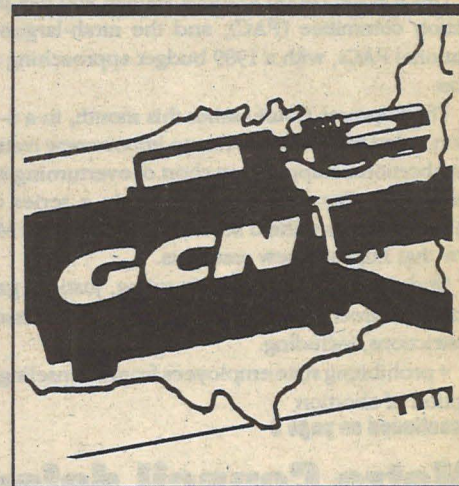
Consciousness Raising Black and White Men To-
gether/Memphis. Main Library, 1850 Peabody Ave,
Memphis. 7:30pm. Info 901-726-1461.

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. Sarraff Cinema, Vanderbilt Univer-
sity, Nashville. 8pm. \$2.50. Info 615-297-5352.



Saturday, July 29

Forum *The Future of Gay Cable Network/Nashville*,
featuring GCN general manager Krzysztof Krakowiak.
Church and Community Forum, sponsored by Metro-
politan Community Church/Nashville. 131 15th Ave
North. Free. 8:30pm, immediately follows weekly Com-
munity Dinner (dinner begins at 7:30pm — \$5 all you can
eat). Info 615-320-0288.

Playshop *Mid-Summer Night's Dream*, sponsored by
Black and White Men Together/Memphis. Info 901-452-
5894.

Wednesday, August 2

Meeting Vanderbilt Lambda business meeting to plan
fall semester activities. Peabody President's House, 1801
Edgehill, Nashville. 7pm. Info 615-296-5352.

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.

Navy pins Iowa blast on gay sailor

from STAFF REPORTS

Navy investigators say that they have collected strong evidence that a suicidal homosexual sailor was responsible for an explosion that killed 47 sailors on the battleship USS *Iowa* in April, according to reports from NBC News and *The New York Times*.

The 10-week probe by Navy investigators, with FBI assistance, ruled out unstable gunpowder or flaws in the mechanical or electrical systems in the gun turrets where the explosion occurred.

The unreleased Navy report said Gunner's Mate Clayton Hartwig, 25, may have been responsible for the blast, according to both NBC and *The Times*. Navy spokesperson Lt. Greg Smith said the investigation report had been submitted to the commander of surface forces for the Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk, Va., and eventually would make its way to the secretary of defense's desk.

The investigators based their findings on a

psychological profile of Hartwig by the FBI and 228 other exhibits, including a three-hour videotaped statement from another *Iowa* sailor, David Smith, according to NBC.

David Smith said he rejected Hartwig's sexual advances the night before the explosion. He also said Hartwig had discussed how to set off a bomb using a nine-volt battery and a small timer, NBC reported.

Investigators also pointed to the rejection of Hartwig by Gunner's Mate Kendall Truitt, who survived the explosion.

Hartwig had named Truitt as the sole beneficiary of a \$50,000 double indemnity life insurance policy.

When rumors surfaced shortly after the blast that it might have been related to Hartwig's relationship with Truitt, Truitt heatedly denied that either he or Hartwig was gay.

Truitt was later transferred away from the *Iowa*, because Navy officials said they feared for his safety there. •

Ellis promoted to Editor

from STAFF REPORTS

Dare Managing Editor Jeff Ellis has been promoted to Editor, according to a statement released today by Publisher Stuart Bivin.

Bivin said that Ellis, who assumed his new duties this week, will begin working full time for the paper Monday.

"Jeff's promotion is part of our long-range plan to serve all of Tennessee as the state's in-depth, comprehensive newspaper of record for lesbian and gay issues. With his leadership, we will soon be able to offer a larger, smoother, more professional-looking paper. We'll be able to fill in the holes in our coverage and provide more and better regular features," he said.

Ellis, who graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 1980 with a B.S. in mass communications with an emphasis in print journalism and minors in English and history,

is an award-winning journalist who served as the first openly-gay Editor-in-Chief of MTSU's student newspaper, *Sidelines*.

While at MTSU, he won four regional awards from Sigma Delta Chi, the student arm of the Society of Professional Journalists: Best All-Around Student Magazine, Best In-Depth Reporting for Newspapers, and Best Magazine Writing (two years running). Ellis was a national runner-up in the Best All-Around Student Magazine and Best Magazine Writing competitions.

The Best All-Around Student Magazine awards were for his series *Growing Up Gay in the Bible Belt*, while the Best Magazine Writing awards were for a *Nashville!* magazine piece on male prostitution in Nashville.

Ellis served part-time as Managing Editor while working full-time as a buyer for Haverty Furniture Company in Nashville. •

...gay man's murderer sought

• continued from page 1

become interested in the counseling of AIDS victims," McElroy said. "He had expressed an interest to friends in becoming an AIDS counselor and had discussed setting up a counseling program."

McElroy said McDonald had been characterized by friends and co-workers as "a very concerned individual, very good at his job, very compassionate and very caring."

McElroy said that the killer may have been one of McDonald's patients. "Based on the description and the composite drawing, it is possible that the suspect could have been a person that the victim was attempting to counsel," McElroy said.

Anyone with information pertaining to the case is asked to contact McElroy, Det. Grady Elam or Sgt. Robert Moore of the Metro Murder Squad at (615) 862-7329 or 862-7546. •

...HRCF joins pro-choice groups

• continued from page 1

• prohibiting state-funded facilities from offering abortions

• requiring doctors to perform tests to determine "fetal viability"

• determining that life begins at conception as long as such determinations are "advisory" and not binding.

The National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) has said the ruling "basically guts *Roe v. Wade* and has taken from women the right to choose abortion and has given that right to state legislatures."

The Court will hear three additional abortion cases next term, a move heralded by pro-life advocates as an indication the court may completely overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

HRCF has been part of a coalition of pro-choice groups organized by NARAL, Voters for

Choice, National Organization for Women (NOW) and others.

"As gays and lesbians, we must continue to stand up for the civil rights and privacy of others if we ever want to see our own rights protected," said Eric Rosenthal, HRCF political director. "The victories we want in the courts depend on precedents set in such cases as *Roe* and *Webster*. If we want anti-gay sodomy decisions like *Hardwick v. Bowers* overturned, the right to privacy must be upheld across the board."

"Who decides about abortion or sexual practices, the government or the individual?" said Robert Bray, HRCF communications director. "In recent rulings the Supreme Court—now heavily stacked with Reagan-appointed justices—seems to be shifting away from individuals and toward the government." •

ABBY R. RUBENFELD ATTORNEY AT LAW

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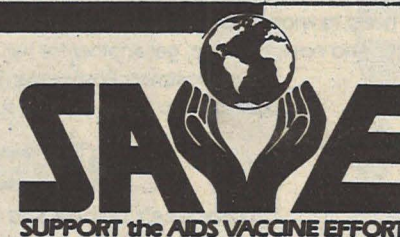
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for exposure to the AIDS virus to participate in research trials
which evaluate potential AIDS vaccines.

There is absolutely no risk of acquiring AIDS from these vaccines.

Persons interested in volunteering
for AIDS vaccine research must meet the following criteria:

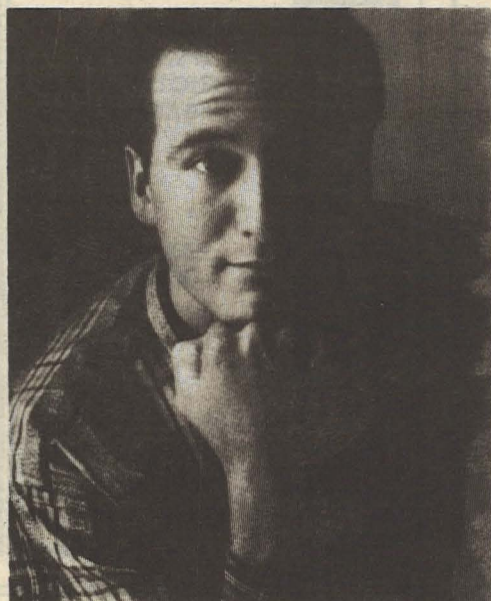
- Age: 18-60 years
- Healthy: no chronic illness
- Low-risk lifestyle for HIV (AIDS) exposure: monogamous relationship or abstinent, no IV drug abuse
- Available for 12-14 month study

In addition to these general guidelines, volunteers for
the present study must have never had a smallpox vaccine.

For more information about the current study,
or future studies, please contact:

Vanderbilt AIDS Vaccine Evaluation Center at 615-343-2437 (343-AIDS)

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

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.

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and toast all night to her hombrismo!
Come act all your aberrant inclinations,
come satisfy your aging ego.

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recline, step on, deny, harass,
and get promoted to Old Grand Dad.

Here, here!

Come use your local scapegoat!
Recycle all your —isms!

Neoteny

What if I broke in,
tore down your vaulted contract?
What if we took down turns
for nourishing the children;
your tits, my tits,
similar, so similar?

What if I knelt down
in a newly colored version
of Julia and Julia,
without the falcon's crest,
and kissed the exit mark,
the point of no return?

"It's too shocking"
"It's terribly unreal"
while your hands get demolished
in insensitive volleys of the ball

Who wins, who loses?
Leftovers, butts of cigars
and your canard necessity to run.

— From *Y Otras Desgracias /
And Other Misfortunes*
Poems by Luz Maria Umpierre
Third Woman Press, 1985



LESBIAN ACTIVIST and poet Luz Maria Umpierre filed suit against Rutgers University in New Jersey because she said the school denied her the chair of its Puerto Rican and Hispanic/Caribbean Studies Department in favor of a man who was less qualified. Umpierre is now the new chair of Western Kentucky University Department of Modern Languages. Book Editor Sherre Dryden spoke with her earlier this week about her lawsuit, her poetry and her new position at WKU.

Dryden: You received national coverage when you filed suit against Rutgers [the State University of New Jersey], alleging discrimination due to gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation. What is the status of the case now?

Umpierre: In 1984 I applied for the position of chair of the Puerto Rican and Hispanic/Caribbean Studies Department at Rutgers. I was very politically active on campus as a lesbian. I was organizing a group that was going to sue Rutgers on a class action suit for not having minority women on the faculty. The university knew that, so they denied me the chairship even though I was the candidate that had the most votes and the most support. They denied me the chairship and it was offered to a man that was less qualified.

That man subsequently occupied the position and he died. So the position became open and I applied for a second time. Again I was denied the position and the position was offered to a man who was less qualified.

What happened then was that I got together with a group of friends and they told me that this would be the one case that would probably be carried through against Rutgers if it was taken before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. I decided to file a grievance with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against the University alleging that I was discriminated against on the basis of my gender, my ethnic background and my sexual preference.

The case has been all over the newspapers throughout the country. At one point we were asking donations for the legal defense fund and that's how the book *The Margarita Poems* came about. The sales of it were used for the legal fees.

The case was going to be heard in New Jersey but we alleged that it would be detrimental to me if it was heard in New Jersey because it would be biased in favor of the University. The last decision that we got on it was that they agreed and the case will be heard in Washington, D.C., which is a big victory. Very few cases are heard by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington.

I don't know when they're going to hear the case.

Why did you decide to take the position at

R P I E C E

by Pia Umpierre

Western Kentucky?

One of the things that attracted me to this position was the fact that they were willing to consider a Puerto Rican woman as chairperson. I thought that was a very good and positive sign about this university.

Does the Western Kentucky administration know you are a lesbian?

They don't know that I'm a lesbian but they do know that one of my publications in my vita for everybody to see is an article called "Lesbian Tantalizing" — and it's right there. My vita includes the fact that I was a speaker on the march for gay rights [the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights], so I'm not hiding anything.

The main thing that I'm really very happy about is that they've finally given me the opportunity to chair a department. I am now one of the very, very few — I think that there are not more than two persons.

I'm one out of two persons who are of Puerto Rican origin and are women who are occupying the highest position at their rank. I think that's very important and that it says a lot about Kentucky and the University. I am very happy about that and I will be working to try and foster things that deal with minority women specially in the University.

You're mainly known as a poet.

I have several books of poems. Critics have said that the most important is the last one. It's a lesbian collection called the *Margarita Poems*. They are poems openly lesbian.

I was invited by Rutgers — the Newark campus, which is more open — to give a reading and a biography of myself. I used it to indict the University in the things that they had done against other minority women and I read the whole collection in public. They're lesbian poems. Well, I had a standing ovation, which was very good. The collection deals openly about my lesbianism and that's why it was written. There are many articles published on my work, and my work is very political. It deals with the conditions of Hispanics in this country, the conditions of women, and my condition of being a lesbian in this country, too.

What was the atmosphere like at Rutgers for gay men and lesbians?

I suffered harassment at the University [Rutgers]. I had a poster on the gay march on Washington on my door and it was stolen. I had a picture of myself and the Puerto Rican poet Janina Braschi on my desk and it was stolen and in its place they left a phallic symbol.

At Rutgers there was a study done by a woman in sociology whose name is Kastri, a very well-known lesbian who has published a book on lesbian history. She did a study at Rutgers of gays and

lesbians and the results were monumental.

Seventy-five percent of the lesbians said that they had encountered some sort of open harassment against them on campus. It was a very, very important study because it shows the pervasiveness of the system at the University.

Because of my case, the president of the University had to institute a fund called "Making It Safe for Minorities". He had to generate a million dollars for that fund. He was very, very upset about this because of course it's money that he was going to use on something else that he had to put to use for this.

What will you be teaching at Western?

Next semester I'm going to be teaching a class called Latin American Women. After that I'm going to be teaching courses on women in Latin American women in the Caribbean, poetry and Caribbean literature.

Have you encountered any prejudice here?

I only arrived here about a month ago. The only open prejudice was when I went to the [Lesbian and Gay Pride '89] march in Nashville when they were screaming things at us, and things like that. But that was in Tennessee.

What was your impression of the Nashville march?

It was an experience. I'm used to marching in the march in New York. That's hundreds of thousands of people and then there were about 300 there. So, it felt like a skinnier group, that you could be hurt more easily.

But I thought it was a wonderful thing to have it. I was very happy and the speaker [Renée McCoy], who was a black woman, a minister, a lesbian, I thought that her speech was very true. That we have to come out, and stay out, wherever we are. The March on Washington was very good for all of us. For me, in particular, it was good because they recognized the fact that my case was very important for lesbians and gays.

They asked me to give one of the speeches at the march and they also invited me to be a reader for the NAMES project [National AIDS Quilt display]. That was very good for me, to gain more exposure.

Are you working on a new book?

I'm writing a book of poems on women who have died — both known women and unknown women. Friends of mine or also women who are fairly well known.

I already wrote the first poem, to Sylvia Plath. I'm writing now a poem to Gilda Radner. That's the collection that I'm working on now.

I'm giving a poetry reading on September 27. I'm available for readings, for talk about the case anywhere in the area. •

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W a r e h o u s e

SOAPBOX

Good news

by **STUART BIVIN**
Publisher

EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, buried in all the horrible news we're all bombarded with every time we pick up a paper or turn on the radio or TV, there's a tiny news item that signifies something really important, something really good all out of proportion to its apparent significance on the page or microphone or screen.

Last week, we got just such a little jolt — a little beam to brighten an otherwise really dreary state political scene.

Tennessee's governor, Ned Ray McWherter, announced that, in spite of his lofty personal distaste for abortion, he would continue to support women's right to choose the fate of their own bodies.

At first glance, it would be easy to be cynical about such a fence-straddle. After all, McWherter's statement had a little of something for everyone, didn't it?

- Personal repugnance of abortion: now there's something no one with a full deck could disagree with that. Abortion is a horrifying thing, and not just, as those on the conservative fringe would have us believe, to those who believe that the procedure takes the life of "pre-born children."

It's difficult to imagine that any woman who has had an abortion, or even had to contemplate the choice, might have done so without suffering enormous emotional, if not physical, pain because of it. No one suggests that abortion is a thing to be undertaken lightly, even though the pious would have us believe that choice advocates are pushing abortion as cheap birth control for the irresponsible and immoral.

- Support for the right to choose: McWherter is well-advised here. He seems to have gotten the message: Americans have a well-developed taste for liberty and a strong distaste for government meddling.

Once sampled, none of us willingly back away very far from the table of personal dignity. And that is what will happen if the states try to recall women's right to choose. They will meet the wrath of the sensible majority, who will turn out of office those who try to impose their narrow, extremist "morality" on the rest of us.

- Support for leaving Tennessee abortion law unchanged: this is a sly move by McWherter. In one swoop, he avoids having to take sides on whether the law should be tightened or relaxed. And may, at the same time, save us all the possibility of having the fairly lenient Tennessee approach worked over by the TV preachers and fetus-wavers.

THE REALLY GOOD NEWS in all this is that it is proof positive that McWherter can spot a political trend at 100 paces, and adapt his populist, I'm-as-reasonable-as-the-next-person approach to the rational middle of the road.

All of which means that soon he'll join in the coming sensible mainstream with regard to privacy issues in general, and that may mean an end to our new and repulsive anti-gay sodomy law. Perhaps even sooner, McWherter will actively seek the inclusion of HIV-positivity, AIDS and ARC in our handicap-protection law.

And that should be really good news. •

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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BETWEEN THE LINES

Letter from the Editor

by **JEFF ELLIS**
Editor

PUBLISHING AND EDITING a weekly newspaper is not an easy job. It requires perseverance, patience and, quite often, nerves of steel. Nonetheless, I'm ready to assume to the duties which go along with a new title.

With this issue of Dare, I take on the title of editor and the myriad responsibilities that go along with it.

It's not an empty gesture meant to please an egotistical writer (although I admit to being that), but rather it is an effort on our part to present a newspaper that's both informative and provocative.

From the beginning, we've tried to be many things to many people: a historical record, a compilation of local events, a chronicler of who we are and where we are going.

And, as is often the case when one has such lofty ideals, we've sometimes borne the brunt of stinging criticism along with praise from our readers — and non-readers as well.

That is part of the newspaper business and will, no doubt, continue as long as Dare continues.

Often, we are criticized for certain coverage, or a lack of coverage of some stories or events. Most recently, we were called to task by a sometime-reader who referred to our "lack of coverage of the [NAMES Project National AIDS] Quilt."

"No one reads Dare anymore because you didn't cover the Quilt," the charge came.

It's obvious that reader doesn't read Dare anymore — at least not very closely. But it's not because of the Quilt coverage, I'm sure. For if she did read Dare regularly, as some 6000 or so people do, she would know the Quilt was featured in no fewer than eight issues of Dare.

Someone else charged that no one reads Dare anymore because we continue to cover the much-lamented sex sting trials.

"Pedophiles have nothing to do with me as a gay man," he contended.

Be that as it may, we've continued to cover the sex-sting cases because several members of our community were involved. We'll continue to cover stories that effect our community because our readers have a right to know. We'll present the facts as best we can, honestly and fairly.

Our readers can make up their own minds. The fact is, people do read Dare (the 6000

or so mentioned earlier) and the newspaper is an important part of their lives.

Some 95% of those people will probably never see their names in print or know the people they read about. Still, Dare provides them with the news of their community; they don't care who makes the news — or who reports it, they just want their newspaper every Friday. It provides them with a link to the

lesbian and gay community at large, and lets the apolitical person know about local activism.

We're often criticized for the political bent of Dare, but politics makes for good copy.

Sometimes, however, we all tend to take things — and ourselves — a little too seriously. When that happens, we need something more entertaining and light-hearted for balance.

We hope you'll see a more balanced Dare in the coming months.

We hope to accomplish much during that time. We plan more in-depth features and opinion pieces (such as looks at internalized homophobia and the historic 1985 sodomy case in Johnson City); more special editions (including an upcoming theater issue next month and separate examinations of lesbian life and gay life in Tennessee); special projects (in the works is a coming-out booklet, as well as the first Dare

theater awards).

So, you see, we have our work cut out for us. It's going to take more people to realize the goals we've set, which means you'll see an active campaign to add people to our list of contributing writers.

We also hope to set up an internship program which would enable us to tap the journalistic talents in local colleges and universities.

WHAT ALL OF THIS MEANS TO YOU, the reader, is a newspaper that is more informative, more timely. We've done our best in the past year and some months to effectively cover the news, but there is always room for improvement. And that's an continuing project.

But an integral part of these plans is you, the reader.

We need to hear your ideas and comments, your compliments and complaints. So write us, or call us, with your suggestions.

We look forward to hearing from you. •

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from our readers —
and non-readers
as well.
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newspaper business
and will, no doubt,
continue as long as
Dare continues.*

PAGES

*The sensible-shoes novel**My Father's Moon*. Elizabeth Jolley. New York: Harper and Row, 1989. 171 pages. \$15.95.reviewed by **JOE MAROHL**

Staff Writer

IF IT HAS NOT BEEN DONE already, Elizabeth Jolley has invented the sensible-shoes novel.

Readers who usually prefer to scan pages may find *My Father's Moon*, her eleventh book, off-putting because Jolley pretty much insists that her readers read her word for exact word. Her simple prose condenses other writers' five long paragraphs to a pithy paragraph of perhaps four irreducible sentences impossible to scan.

My Father's Moon is an episodic coming-of-age novel told in first person by the protagonist, Veronica Wright, an uncomplicated English girl of Quaker background. The story centers on Veronica's experiences as a student nurse at an isolated English hospital during the Second World War.

Her adventures, such as they are, not only make her witness to the scarring effects of war but also lead her to view herself as an emotional human being, distinct from her parents and the girl she used to be at home.

She relates all her experiences with straightforwardness and dispassion one expects of the technical professions. Whatever poetry there is in the novel is what Veronica calls the "poetry of anatomy."

If Jolley's style here is, let's face it, dowdy, it is still informed with intelligence and barely concealed emotion:

"It is Diamond and Snorter and they are naturally quite naked. There is nothing unusual about their bodies. Their clothes, party clothes, are all in little heaps on the floor. They, the women not the clothes, are holding hands, their arms held up gracefully. They are stepping up towards each other and away again. They have stopped singing and are nodding and smiling and turning to the left and to the

right, and, then, with sedate little steps, skipping slowly round and round. It is a dance, a little dance for two people, a minuet, graceful strange and remote. In the steam the naked bodies are like a pair of sea birds engaged in a mating display. They appear and disappear as if seen through a white sea mist on some far off shore."

The eloquence of this passage is intensified by its plainness, leanness, characteristic of the low-key tone of the book.

Jolley makes art out of the cadence and imagery of the academic plain style.

Veronica's infatuation with staff nurse Ramsden is the love story which unifies the episodes of the novel. Since Ramsden is well-bred, evident in her appreciation for classical music, Veronica goes so far as to invest in a violin case in order to catch the other woman's attention. When Veronica has a child by the hospital's resident Casanova, she turns away from Ramsden in embarrassment, only to begin, years

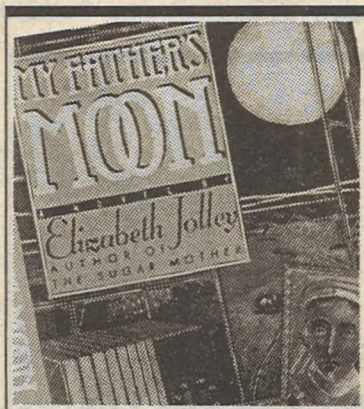
later, a quest for the older woman who comes to represent austere simplicity and tender intimacy, the components of the happy calm Veronica seeks.

THE NOVEL IS a fine and sometimes dryly amusing defense of living close to the earth. It is also a book about the pleasures of solitude and the loneliness of love.

Personally, I found little in the book's tone or its made-for-Masterpiece Theatre characters to enjoy.

A certain degree of redundancy in the novel, vestiges of Jolley's publication of parts as short fiction in periodicals, perhaps, seemed a little inconsistent with the elliptical sparseness elsewhere.

Nevertheless, I admire Jolley's artistry here and the simplicity of her aesthetic. •

*...a well-set Table*

• continued from page 8

"Do you think I enjoy being a cultural stereotype?" she asks the audience.

As her Older Son, the lawyer, Dennis Ewing is the obedient child who sometimes finds himself restricted by the confines of family life and responsibility to his wife and kids. He dreams of freedom, but ultimately discovers his real place is with his family.

Ewing's restrained performance gives you the idea of something simmering beneath the surface.

Karen Mundy adds another amusing character to her repertoire as the Older Son's *shiksa* wife. "We were told Jewish men were faithful and hard-working," she says, wondering what happened to the "sexy tiger" she first met.

Jesse James Locorriere's on-target portrayal of the Younger Son is both low-key and broadly drawn. He seeks "better living through chemicals" and fulfillment in unfulfilling relationships, smoking pot and snorting cocaine.

Locorriere's role is probably the most theat-

rical of the lot. He exhibits a good range, proving himself adept at both comedy and drama — plus he has a great haircut.

When the Younger Son meets the Girlfriend (who happens to be a psychiatric social worker in need of some therapy herself) we're treated to a comic look at modern romance.

Risë Nachman, as the Girlfriend, gives a delightful performance: her delivery is skillful and her timing near perfect as she tells us of living in the shadow of her prettier, smarter older sister. She's an actress we're going to want to see more of in the future.

As the younger family members, Angela Robertson and Bryan Miller do none of that precocious pre-teen overacting that sometimes substitutes for real talent. Instead, both of the young actors give natural performances that are entertaining.

Thanks to their deft performances and Lapine's genuinely honest script, they more than hold their own with their older, more experienced counterparts. •

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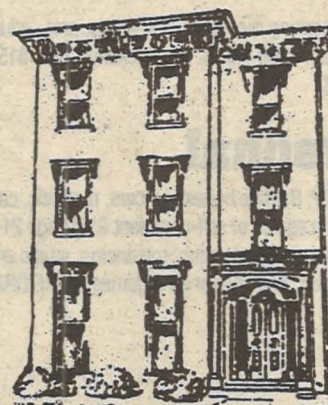
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CURTAINS

Almost a perfect comedy

Almost a Midsummer Night's Dream. Rave Revues. Directed by Michael Bouson and Joe Correll.
reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**

Editor

RAVE REVUES' new production, *Almost A Midsummer Night's Dream* is a tuneful evening of zany happenings and uproarious good times that features two of Nashville's most talented performers — Martha Gabel and Michael Bouson.

Based on Shakespeare's comedy, *Almost* asks the musical question, "What happens when a new theatre troupe goes on the road with a new version of the Bard's classic and half of the cast doesn't show up?"

The answer is Nashville's best theatre work of the summer, a knee-slapping, laugh-filled show that slightly skewers the Bard's tale of Oberon, Titania, Puck and company. It's classical theatre at its most accessible and entertaining.

Conceived and directed by Bouson and Joe Correll (also part of the eight-person ensemble), featuring a musical score by Kathy Shepard with musical direction and choreography by Katie Gladfelter, *Almost* presents the time-honored tale in a colorful fashion. A jumble of costumes and tongue-in-cheek sets are the perfect complement to the ensemble's hilarious hijinks.

Shakespeare's words are brought vividly to life by the ensemble's off-the-wall presentation. It's truly inspired stuff and so it's difficult to single out any performances the best.

But Martha Gabel, so deliciously funny in *The All-New Avante Garage*, proves once again why she's considered one of the brightest lights in local theatre circles. This woman's just not right! As a comic, she's side-splitting; as a singer, she's wonderfully engaging. I think I want to be her.

If not, then I'd probably settle for being Michael Bouson, who, throughout the past

year as artistic director of Rave Revues, has proven himself one of the most creative forces in local theatre. He can match Gabel laugh for laugh, joke for joke, mug for mug.

But that's not to say the rest of the cast isn't just as talented. As an acting ensemble, they're hard to beat. They're as entertaining as all get-out in their multiple roles.

Lari White as Puck, dressed up in '60s-fringed fashion, is delightfully wicked. She sings with power and humor in her voice, a twinkle in her eye.

Valerie Green's deadpan Hippolyta is a scream: she'd obviously rather be somewhere else. Her Titania, the fairy queen, is sexy and lovely: her big production number, replete with back-up singers in the best Motown style, is the evening's highlight.

As Hermia, Su Hyatt makes the most of a rather sedate role. Her powerful voice is evident, her comic timing superb.

Amid the pratfalls, pit-falls and mixed-up identities, Mike Norman and Rob Daniel shine as Demetrius and Oberon, though Correll (Lysander)

seems most adept at reciting Shakespeare's lines.

FOR THOSE WHO are put off by the thought of seeing Shakespeare performed: rest easy! Although following the show's action is a little tentative in the early going, in no time at all you'll be caught up in the story. And when the show ends, you're likely to be asking for more.

So, my advice to you is to get out and see this show before its run concludes August 5. The show is presented, cabaret-style, in the Backstage at the Barn arena at Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre on Highway 100. •



A well-set Table

Table Settings. Actors' Playhouse. Directed by Lane Wright.
reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**

Editor

DENNIS EWING's Actor's Playhouse continues its innovative, risk-taking season with the first Nashville production of James Lapine's *Table Settings*, an affectionate portrait of a modern American family, warts and all.

Although Lapine's fictional family is Jewish, the play could be about a Catholic family, a Protestant family or an agnostic family. In episodic fashion, we meet its members, get to understand their hopes and fears and gradually come to think of them as friends.

The play's title, explained in a brief episode by the Mother, comes from the dinner table's highly-regarded, often-revered, ceremonial

role in many Jewish traditions. It is around the Mother's table, as well as her Older Son's table and even a restaurant table that we come to know the family.

The Mother, played with warmth and humor by the very talented Anne Tonelson, initially seems to be the quintessential Jewish mother, what with her tales of her Minsk girlhood and her traditional values. However, as eloquently played by Tonelson, she emerges from the constraints of stereotype to be seen as a sympathetic, mature woman who still longs for a bit of romance, "a soft touch on the back of the neck."

• continued on page 7

