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# Dare

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 30

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

JULY 28 — AUGUST 3, 1989

## Police still seek killer

by JEFF ELLIS  
Editor

Metro Nashville police are continuing their investigation into the brutal stabbing death two weeks ago of 34-year-old Barry McDonald.

McDonald was found dead in his home at 2003 Upland Drive, in the Inglewood section of east Nashville, by his roommate, Gene Rice, when Rice returned home from vacation Wednesday, July 12. Rice told investigators he had last spoken to McDonald by telephone the previous Sunday evening.

According to reports, McDonald was stabbed some 30 times in the back and chest. Sources termed the murder "one of the most violent crimes in the city's history."

"It was obvious, from the violence of the crime, that it was committed by someone who was very angry, who had a lot of pent-up rage," said Det. Terry McElroy of the Metro Murder Squad.

Investigators say that McDonald's murder "could have been directly related to his being gay," but that it is • continued on page 3



Julie Harris, Tony award-winning actress, will star in *Driving Miss Daisy*, one of the offerings in the 1989-90 Broadway series at Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville. Also included in the series: the musical *Into the Woods*, the Cole Porter revival *Anything Goes*, the comedy *Rumors*, the musical revival of *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* and a return engagement of *Les Misérables*. — PHOTO COURTESY TENNESSEE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

## Fed judge strikes city bookstore ordinance

Metro Nashville law "unenforceable"

by JEFF ELLIS  
Editor

The doors have gone back up on the individual viewing booths in Nashville area adult bookstores and video arcades, following a ruling last week that Metro's "peep show" ordinance is "too vague and unenforceable."

The doors to the booths were removed and operating hours for the establishments set from 8 a.m. to 3 a.m., following a 1987 investigation by the Metro Health Department. Joseph Bistowish, then-director of the department, told members of the Metro Council that adult bookstores are breeding grounds for sexually-transmitted diseases.

U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Higgins, in a 60-page opinion issued last Monday, enjoined Metro officials from enforcing the ordinance which had required the removal of doors from private viewing booths and subjected bookstore employees to extensive background checks.

In that same opinion, Higgins refused to award \$200,000 in damages sought by Swinger's World, doing business as First Amendment Bookstore, and Ellwest Theatre, both located on Broadway.

Swinger's World — which lost its lease at 400 Broadway after efforts spearheaded by Merchants Hotel

owner Ed Stolman and members of the Nashville Coalition Against Pornography (NCAP) proved successful — is in the process of moving to a new location at 412 Broadway. The lease on the 400 Broadway location expires July 31.

NCAP organizers have been looking toward Chattanooga for inspiration in the battle to rid the state's capital city of pornographic materials. A similar group in Chattanooga was successful in bringing about the closing of adult bookstores and video arcades in the southeastern Tennessee city. According to sources there, the group then set its sights on closing the city's gay bars.

Several adult bookstores have reopened in Chattanooga, but none of them has private viewing booths, which are prohibited by local ordinance. The Chattanooga ordinance was used as a blueprint by Metro Council members when restrictions were adopted for Nashville.

Tennessee statutes define obscene materials as "patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts," such as sexual intercourse, fellatio, cunnilingus or sodomy. The statutes outlaw the ownership, distribution and display of such materials.

With the exception of child • continued on page 3

## UT gets gay student group

from STAFF REPORTS

In an historic move last spring, administrators at the University of Tennessee gave approval to the Gay and Lesbian Student Union on the Knoxville campus.

With 40 members during its first months of existence, the group hopes to have at least 100 active members by fall, according to Eric Manley, vice president of the group.

"The group's meetings and social activities have been very successful," he said. The group gave a benefit at a local community center and sponsored an event during Lesbian and Gay Pride Week in Knoxville.

The Gay and Lesbian Student Union was formed after a group of lesbian and gay Christians split. Reception to the new group has been rather bland, Manley said, although opposition to the Christian group was somewhat more • continued on page 3

## Activists say high court's ruling affects lesbian rights

by HARRISON HICKS  
Staff Writer

Does the U.S. Supreme Court's *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services* decision on abortion affect the lesbian and gay rights movement? Yes, according to several community leaders in the Nashville area.

Penny Campbell, one of the coordinators of the Pride Week Committee, said that the decision, in which the high court affirmed state controls over abortion, signals the possibility of the destruction of abortion rights. But, Campbell noted, abortion is part of a larger issue of people's control over their own bodies.

"Everyone who is concerned with personal privacy rights, whether they be gay men, lesbians or heterosexual women, need to bond together," Campbell said.

Since the court's *Hardwick v. Bowers* decision, which upheld Georgia's sodomy statutes, Campbell explained, the court has continued to fail to uphold privacy

rights, a trend she doesn't expect to change soon.

Deborah Burks, chair of Advance, the political action committee of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA), also expressed her displeasure with the court's decision.

"I was deeply disturbed and disappointed by the *Webster* decision," Burks said, adding that the decision was indicative of what can probably be expected from the current high court.

"I'm not real optimistic," Burks said about future court action on abortion and privacy rights.

Burks echoed Campbell's opinion that the privacy issues raised by abortion and a woman's right to choose tie into the lesbian and gay rights movement.

"I see it relating to gay and lesbian issues, all sorts of civil rights," Burks said.

At stake, she said, is who controls women's lives — the state or women themselves. If the state can impose • continued on page 3

## I N S I D E

Dare this week

Where do lesbian and gay couples meet? Would you believe...  
Centerpiece, page 4



Lesbians and abortion:  
It's our battle, too.  
Soapbox, page 6.



Everything you've ever wanted to know about kissing.  
Quotes, page 8.





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## D A T E S

### MEMPHIS

#### Mondays

Gay Alternative Hour Radio show, WEVL-FM 90, 6-7pm.  
Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center.  
8pm. Info 901 272-9459.

#### Tuesdays

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center.  
5:30 and 8pm. Info 901 272-9459.

#### Wednesdays

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

#### Thursdays

P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Support group, St. John's  
Episcopal Church, 322 S Greer, 1st Thursday only. Info 901 761-1444.  
Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center.  
5:30pm. Info 901 272-9459.  
Into the Light (Women's Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting, Memphis Lambda  
Center. 8pm. Info 901 276-7379.

#### Fridays

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center.  
5:30 and 10pm. Info 901 272-9459.

#### Saturdays

Twisted Sisters (ACOA) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center. Noon. Info  
901 276-7379.  
Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center.  
8pm. Info 901 272-9459.

#### Sundays

Agape New Life Church Sunday School, 9:30am. Worship service, 11am. Info  
901 276-1872.  
Holy Trinity Community Church Worship service, 11am. 1216 Forrest Ave.  
Info 901 726-9443.  
Into the Light (Women's Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting, Memphis Lambda  
Center. Noon. Info 901 276-7379.  
Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, Memphis Lambda Center.  
8pm. Info 901 272-9459.

### NASHVILLE

#### Mondays

Gay Overeaters Anonymous Open meeting for lesbian and gay overeaters.  
MCC, 5:30pm. Info 615 327-4614.  
Nashville CARES 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.  
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.  
Gay/Lesbian Addictions Anonymous Meeting, Belmont United Methodist  
Church. 8pm.

#### 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

Sexualities 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

#### Friday, July 28

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.

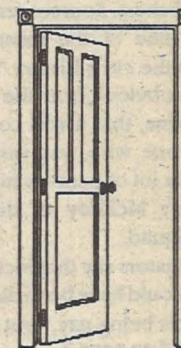
Playshop Mid-Summer Night's Dream, sponsored by  
Black and White Men Together/Memphis. Info 901-452-  
5894.

#### 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.

#### Monday, August 7

Picnic Picnic and meeting, Tennessee Gay & Lesbian  
Alliance. At Fannie Mae Dees Park, Nashville. Covered  
dish supper. Bring dish. Drinks, cups, plates provided.  
Free. 6:30 p.m. Info 615-297-4293.



#### Sunday, August 13

Feminist Book Circle Discussion of *Sister Gin*, by  
June Arnold. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Wood-  
mont Blvd, Nashville. Free. 5-7pm.

#### Wednesday, August 23

Ice Cream on the Lawn Vanderbilt Lambda dessert  
social. Peabody President's House, 1801 Edgehill, Nash-  
ville. Bring your favorite dessert. Free. 7pm. Info 615-  
296-5352.

Your nonprofit event can be listed free in Dates. Write to  
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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.

### Corrections:

- In last week's story about Luz Maria Umpi-  
erre, her name was misspelled.
  - In the same story, Cathy Eckman provided  
additional research and was not credited.
- Dare regrets the errors and is glad to correct  
the record. •



## ...bookstore ordinance struck down

• continued from page 1

pornography, which carries stiff punishment for persons found to be in possession of such material, penalties for other forms of pornography are slight in Tennessee.

Importing, distribution, exhibition or possession of pornographic or obscene materials — misdemeanor offenses — carry a penalty of 90 days to six months imprisonment and up to \$1,000 in fines.

For materials to be deemed obscene, juries must first find answers to three questions to make the determination:

- Would the average person, using contemporary community standards, find that the work taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest?

- Does the work depict or describe patently offensive sexual conduct?

- Does the work, as a whole, lack any serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value?

Other state laws also require that videos bearing an "X" rating be placed in a separate room in video rental stores and that the room be inaccessible to persons under 18. •

## ...police continue search for killer

• continued from page 1

difficult to determine the murderer's motive.

"It's kind of hard to say if the murder was directly related to Barry's being gay," McElroy told *Dare* last week. "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."

Police are continuing their search for a man for questioning in connection with the crime. The man — seen by a neighbor through McDonald's kitchen window on Sunday, July 9 — is described as a white male, about six feet tall, with a slender build, weighing about 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.

McDonald, a native of Canada, had been living in Nashville for two years while working as a registered nurse at St. Thomas Hospital.

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

Sandee Potter, executive director of Nashville CARES, an AIDS-services organization, said she had never talked to McDonald or had heard of him before the investigation into his death.

"I was contacted by Metro police who asked if I had talked with Barry. He could have been, like so many others, someone who wanted to help people with AIDS," Potter said. "It's possible he had been in contact with someone at the Vanderbilt AIDS Project."

A spokesperson for VAP, however, said they had never been contacted by McDonald about his becoming involved in VAP's counseling programs.

McDonald's death and the subsequent investigation marks the second time in less than a year that a gay man has been brutally murdered in Nashville.

Vernon Lester Larkin, a computer operator, was found gagged and bound, lying between a cocktail table and a sofa in his blood-spattered Hickory Valley-area apartment last September 7.

The body of the 30-year-old Larkin was found by officials at the Knolls apartment complex, following a phone call from Larkin's mother who had been unable to reach her son for several days.

Larkin had last been seen leaving The Jungle Lounge, located at 306 Fourth Avenue South, the previous Sunday night with a man police believed to be the prime suspect in the murder.

Metro police still have not charged anyone with Larkin's murder.

"They (the public) may have forgotten about it, but we haven't. We never forget," said Det. Mike Smith in an interview with *Dare* late last year. •

## ...local lesbians on abortion decision

• continued from page 1

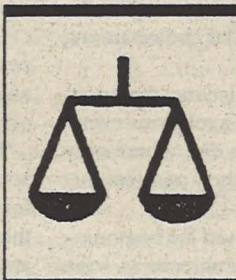
its decisions on women, Burks contended, states could also continue to impose or to tighten restrictions on lesbians and gay men.

Law student and activist Laura Tek expressed mixed feelings about the high court's *Webster* decision.

She said that she had some concerns about abortion.

"I'm not sure I believe in abortion on demand," said Tek.

She noted that in some cases abortion is



used as a form of birth control and in extreme cases as a method of gender selection in children.

But, despite her concerns, Tek felt the court's decision was harmful to individual rights.

While favoring restrictions on abortion after fetal viability outside the womb was probable, Tek said she believes ultimately that women and their doctors were

better equipped to make decisions about abortion than are state governments.

The decision is believed by many to indicate a willingness to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. •

## ...new UT student group

• continued from page 1

vocal.

"We've gotten some coverage in the *Daily Beacon*, [the university's student newspaper]," Manley said.

The majority of members in the new group are undergraduates, he explained, although the group is "open to basically anyone in the UT community."

Currently, approximately 10 members are

graduate students and another 10 are non-students.

Faculty adviser to the group is Celia McCullough, director of the Education Advancement Center at UT.

Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro and Vanderbilt University in Nashville also have active lesbian and gay student groups, MTSU Lambda Association and Vanderbilt Lambda Association. •

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## C E N T E R

### How lesbian and gay

**W**OULD IT SURPRISE YOU to know that lesbian couples are likely to meet each other under much different circumstances than gay male couples?

by LAURA TEK  
Contributing Writer

Would you believe that gay male couples average longer relationships than lesbians?

And that gay male couples have sex more times per month on average than lesbian couples?

*Partners: The Newsletter for Gay and Lesbian Couples* has the answers to those questions and more in its just-released preliminary results of a national survey undertaken last year of gay and lesbian couples. These preliminary results and comments, which are regularly published in the monthly newsletter, are based upon the answers so far from 812 respondents, representing 390 lesbian couples and 273 gay male couples. The survey drew about 1600 responses in all.

The "how they met" and "how long have you been together?" questions were only two of the more than 100 questions that were put to same-sex couples.

Among lesbian couples surveyed, some 28% said they had met through introductions by mutual friends. Surprisingly, another 22% of the lesbian couples said they met through work.

Male couples, on the other hand, found gay bars to be the most popular meeting place. About 24% of the male couples surveyed said they met at a bar or nightclub. It was noted, however, that the newer the relationship, the more likely the couple had met at a social event instead; the AIDS epidemic obviously making the nightclub venue a less prominent meeting spot.

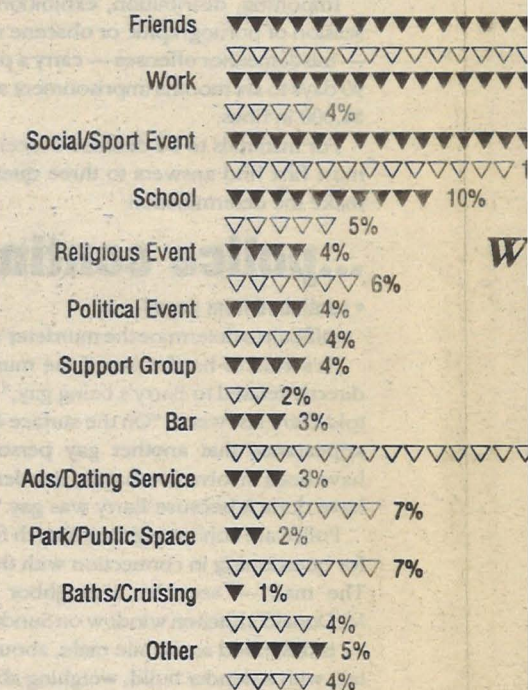
Only 5% of the male couples surveyed said they met through work. But 19% of those surveyed said they met through friends, making this the second most popular choice among gay male couples.

More gay men also met their partner at church or at a religious event, (6%) than lesbians did, where only 4% said they met their partners that way.

Other places noted for beginning new romantic entanglements were sporting events, political events, support groups, dating services, classified ads, public parks or cruising.

Gay male couples were far more likely than their lesbian counterparts to have met through sexually-charged arenas — baths, cruising in the park or classified ads.

Gay male couples also seem to be having more sex together than lesbian couples, according to the survey's findings. But lesbian



couples said they enjoyed their sex more.

The male couples surveyed said they had sex an average of nine times a month; lesbians, only seven times per month. The most sexually active were couples who have been together for one year or less. They had sex twice as often as the average couple.

The sex itself was rated "excellent" by 54% of the women, but by only 31% of the men. Sex was rated "good" by 25% of the women and 35% of the men.

Sex outside the relationship was a more common practice for gay men than for lesbians. Only 4% of the lesbians surveyed reported any outside sex during the previous year. However, 27% of the men had sex outside the relationship during the preceding year.

Only 12% of the men had outside sex more than once a month and another 5% said they had outside sex once or more per week.

**THE AVERAGE AGE** of the respondents was 35 for the women, 37 for the men. The average length of the relationships surveyed was five and one-quarter years for lesbians, seven and one-half years for gay male couples.

While several couples indicated they had been together for longer than 40 years, many of the relationships had only recently begun. About 50% of the lesbian couples surveyed had been together for three and one-half years or less. About 5% of the gay male couples had been together five years or less.

So how do Nashville couples fit into these statistics? Do they repre-







## ONE IN TEEN

### He's back

by **JASON ANDERSON**  
Contributing Writer

**BELIEVE IT OR NOT**, I am still alive! Let me first apologize to you, the reader, for the delay since my last column. I have been dealing with some personal problems that have kept me pretty depressed since May. For some reason, I couldn't bring myself to write a column without getting upset and more wrapped up in my problems.

Fortunately, however, my problems have either been resolved or put under a reasonable amount of control.

For those of you who have been following my progress during the past year, you might remember that I have been trying to choose a college — either Rice University (in Houston, Texas) or Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (in New York). Well, fortunately and unfortunately, I chose Rensselaer.

By "fortunately" I mean that I did not get into Rice. I believe that Rensselaer is far more suited to my visions of what I want out of college.

By "unfortunately" I mean that Rensselaer ain't cheap! Per my father's request (or maybe per his accountant's request), I calculated what my first year at college and a computer for school would cost. I also subtracted financial aid and my contribution from my summer earnings. My father's part of the deal comes to almost \$15,000.

Needless to say, my father almost had a stroke! I just hope he can come up with the 15 thou.

Now, about my trip to Rensselaer: July 4th weekend was summer orientation, which I had to attend — at considerable cost, of course. This was my first opportunity to get a peek at what the freshman class will be like.

The class is not a bunch of computer nerds like you might expect. I also was trying to gauge people's attitudes about various issues, including homosexuality. I really didn't get any strong feelings because the orientation was short and contained little student discussion.

Each student had to fill out a student interest sheet so that the school would know who might be interested in certain clubs. The Gay and Lesbian Association was listed on the sheet, along with other groups. I did overhear a few jokes about that, but I heard more jokes about the "Women at Rensselaer" organization, probably due to the fact that the student ratio is five males to every female.

I should receive information about the lesbian and gay group soon. I am looking forward to finding out more about the group and I plan to get involved when school starts this fall.

Orientation was interesting for another reason as well. At the opening ceremony, the school's president spoke about the incoming freshman class. In doing so, he mentioned some specific accomplishments of various students without mentioning their names.

He told how one student has done research at the Texas Medical Center and another had won some big science recognition. Stuff like that.

Then he recognized a student who had completed training with Vanderbilt AIDS Project to become an AIDS educator and had done programs for teens in Nashville. I felt very proud to be recognized by the president

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## Dare

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

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

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## SOAPBOX

### Lesbians and the abortion ruling

by **CAROLE CUNNINGHAM**  
Staff Writer

**WHILE THE RIGHT** to safe and legal abortions has long been championed by most women's rights organizations, the place of abortion rights in lesbian agendas has often been tangential. Most politically-minded lesbians have always supported the right of women to abortions; but like opposing apartheid in South Africa or boycotting the grape industry, our support may have come more often from an urge to do the right thing politically than a sense that this issue deeply affects lesbian lives.

After all, lesbians, as lesbians, are hardly pounding on the doors of abortion clinics in record numbers to end unwanted pregnancies (a view, that while largely accurate, should not evade the significant number of lesbians who seek abortions because they were victims of sexual assault or incest or, like other women, became pregnant in the "usual" way). In fact the number of lesbians wanting to become pregnant has become staggering in recent years. Lesbian parents and co-parents now grace the covers of national magazines, chat about the complexities of parenting with Barbara Walters, outline the do's and don'ts of turkey baster fertilization to awestruck reporters.

But abortion is an issue about which no lesbian can afford not to be politically minded. Within a society still largely hostile toward lesbians (however benign the Barbara Walterses of the world may be), our enthusiasm for our new families and our commitment to ensuring their safety and viability will be futile and indeed foolish unless we heed the concomitant call to defend the right to decide when to have a family as passionately as we defend the right to choose what kind of family we have.

**IF THE PUBLIC** outcry in recent weeks over flag burning tells us anything, it is that a new and virulent strain of traditionalism threatens much more than free speech. Gay men and lesbians should pay special heed to any and all attempts to regulate the meaning of national icons, whether the flag or the family. We need only remember how Ronald Reagan and George Bush successfully convinced the American public that the majority of American families consists of a father (male), a mother (female), and their child or children — a portrait that is patently false and statistically insupportable — to see how profoundly a simple, if false, definition of an image sacred to Americans gives license to a political party or president to sweep the hard-won victories of women, gays or others under the carpet of conformity.

Both Reagan and Bush, if they could not scientifically support their claims about the make-up of American families, were able to

convince most Americans that at the very least, the conservative's portrait of the family was the portrait Americans most wanted to emulate and most wanted to believe was true.

And they succeeded. A claim's validity, a politician's position, no longer requires any objective substantiation to be considered "true"; truth has become a matter of fabricating the right image at the right time and flattering a public too frightened by change, too repelled by difference, into believing that things haven't changed so much since the 1950s after all. Or if they have, we can still go "back to the future."

This cultural amnesia — seen most glaringly in the Supreme Court's recent decisions on abortion and civil rights — promises to lull an already somnolent nation into a deeper, more dangerous sleep. And while polls taken only days ago suggest there is still majority support for legalized abortion, conservatives have already begun to employ the rhetorical tools used successfully in the last elections to convince Americans this time that what appears to be true — that Americans want to keep abor-

tion legal — is actually false. The pro-choice majority, they tell us, is not a majority at all; it's just a cleverly cloaked minority composed mainly of "radical feminists." And you know what a radical feminist is.

The association many conservatives would like Americans to make between pro-choice forces and "radical" feminism (i.e., lesbians) touches, of course, on the issue of who supports abortion rights and why. Lesbians must speak out for themselves on this issue or have conservative politicians and pundits speak for them. We must let Americans know, we must let the pro-choice movement know, that lesbians support the right to choose when to have families and the right to choose what kind of family to have, and that for anyone — les-

bian, gay or straight — to support one of those choices without supporting the other risks winning a battle only to lose the war.

**BURNING THE FLAG** as a form of political protest poses a question, a question that touches profoundly on the way we think about freedom and our icons of freedom. Lesbians, as lesbians — especially those lesbians starting families — pose with their very being a question that touches the heart of this country's perception of what a family should be, what a woman should be, what a mother should be. Lesbians must not only continue to pose this question, and pose it proudly, but understand that it is indeed a question, and that most Americans are as afraid of the question lesbians pose as they are of the questions posed by abortion.

Are these questions related? You tell me. •

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## PAGES

**Unholy name-dropping***The Holy Innocents*. Gilbert Adair. New York: Dutton, 1989. 150 pages.reviewed by **JOE MAROHL**

Staff Writer

IF THERE'S A FRENCH artist of the last century whose name is not dropped somewhere in the 150 pages of *The Holy Innocents*, usually in self-consciously picturesque and vague descriptions of persons ("Danielle was a Balthus"), I dare you to discover and name her or him.

Gilbert Adair's first original novel concerns a ménage à trois in Paris in 1968: an American, Matthew, and the French twins Guillaume and Danielle. All three are under 20 and devoted movie lovers. Adair imagines them as mad aesthetes, the soulless spiritual children of de Sade, Esseintes and Dorian Gray, totally out of touch with society and current events.

In what has to be a serious goof, Adair metaphorizes the threesome's decadence in a sexual imagery of incest and homosexuality. Only at the end of the novel, when the ménage is shattered by the intrusion of the famous May, 1968, student riots in Paris, do the three protagonists enter into a higher consciousness, via a speedy Marxist education.

As a result, there is the kind of human sacrifice the old Hays commission used to require of movie characters who trespass the standards of decency: one of the sexual adventurers has to die.

The novel's postmodern premise, itself lifted off Cocteau, is promising. The theme, that the sexual revolution of the 1960s opposed and probably confounded the revolutionary politics of the decade, is at least interesting and worth debating seriously. But Adair's prose style is tiresomely artificial and humorless, full of the purple richness of Patrick Susskind's cloying *Perfume*. Intending to debunk the rococo sensibility of its dissolute protagonists, the novel succeeds only in accumulating a sediment of francoiseries and middle-brow pornography.

Adair lets his love of language and sensual imagery get out of hand, and things get pretty silly. He loves puns and sometimes spends a

paragraph to set up a pun like "chez Guevara."

He can't resist a meaty allusion either: Oedipus Rex is the name given to a Breton housekeeper's dog, "so named because as a pup it had broken its own father's neck in a spat and impregnated its mother, whose whole litter it had been necessary to drown in the Eure."

Among the book's museumy clutter one finds "a rare set of Fragonard etchings or an inscribed first edition of *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, weighty references to all the major composers and classic Hollywood and European films, and more Paris street names than you can shake a stick at. There have to be limits to the redundant pretties a work of fiction can contain.

As for the book's eroticism, it works against itself in two ways. Matthew's bisexuality and Danielle and Guillaume's sibling incest, though tastefully oblique, are used here as evidence of bourgeois decadence — an unjust equivocation from both sides, since the bourgeoisie hardly cultivates, or even tolerates, incest or homosexuality.

Also, Adair's touch is a little heavy for erotica. His

obsession with pubic hair seldom rises above the grotesque. At one point he considers the possibility of weaving a fur coat from the pubic hair of Filipino boys.

At another point, a black shoe-shine boy on roller skates stretches his arms like a "crucified black Jesus. Sleek silken hair sprouted from the armpits of the Cross."

Opportunities to render sexual events naturally and unforcefully are downplayed to oblique and still-life tableaux of anatomy and décor.

IT'S HARD TO RESIST reapplying one character's comment about eating ratatouille to the reading of this novel: "like vomiting in reverse!" Compared to the leanly-written *Less Than Zero* and *Closer*, its American suburban cousins in decadence, *The Holy Innocents* is merely picturesque puke. •

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## BRIEFS

from STAFF REPORTS

**NOW proposes new political party**

AMID CHEERING AND EMBRACES, delegates to the National Organization for Women (NOW) convention meeting here called for a possible third U.S. political party to be formed.

"We're over half the population and we're being ignored," NOW President Molly Yard said. "We're sick and tired of begging."

The new party would be dedicated to equality for women and an expanded Bill of Rights for the 21st century, which would include at least six new constitutional amendments — including guarantees of freedom of choice and freedom from sex and sexual orientation discrimination.

A NOW task force will begin the exploration into establishing the third party, Yard said, adding that it will look at successful third parties in other countries. She said it was too early to tell if the third party could field a candidate by the 1992 presidential election.

"We're talking about a major realignment politically," said Eleanor Smeal, president of the Fund for the Feminist Majority. "There's a total dissatisfaction with both parties." •

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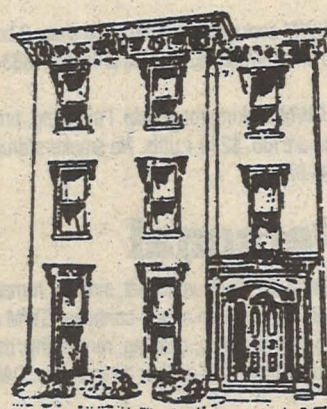
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## M A R K E T

## Announcements

• Do you remember the first time you read Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness*? Dare is looking for your impressions and recollections for a Radclyffe Hall anniversary story. Phone us at (615) 327-Dare, and either tell your anecdote or leave your name and number for an interview.

• **TWO BEANS TEE SHIRTS** Fun designs! Write for free catalog: 2391 Forrest Avenue #3, Memphis, TN 38112.

• Dare is now in Knoxville! Look for us at the Carousel, the Peppertree, Traditions, Metropolitan Community Church/Knoxville and Davis-Kidd Booksellers. Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly.

• **WANTED:** Reliable, hardworking self-starters in Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis for commissioned ad sales. Great part-time, high-pay work for students, etc. 615-327-Dare.

• **WANTED:** Reliable and energetic people to help deliver Dare in Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville. Great pay. Write Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone 615-327-Dare.

• **LONG HOURS. HARD WORK. LOW PAY.** Dare is accepting applications from writers. Learn community-oriented journalism, and be one of the best. Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone 615-327-Dare.

• Catch our new look! Watch GCN/Nashville Tuesdays at 9pm, Saturdays at 8pm. On Nashville's Cable 35.

## Travel

• **TIMBERFELL LODGE, DISCREET HIDEAWAY.** Bed & breakfast inn. 250 acres country elegance, deluxe rooms & food, sauna, jacuzzi & hiking. Clothes optional. The South's finest gay men's resort. Rte 11, Box 94-A, attn: DAR, Greeneville, TN 37743. 615-234-0833.

## Homes

• **TOWNHOME GREEN HILLS** 2 BR/3BA. MBR w/ Jacuzzi, skylite. Balc.-LR, frpic-DR, patio, priv yd, kit/ island-W/D. \$8K down, assumable \$98K mort. Owner assist; lease-purchase. 615-292-6163.

• GWM seeks M/F roommate to share 3 bdrm house. No smoker/pets. \$200 plus utils. 615-883-6507

• GWM seeking roommate. I'm young, prof., educated. You are too. \$230 + utils. No smokers/drugs. 615-360-9764.

## Personal

• GWM, 27, Br/Blue honest, sincere, romantic, career-oriented. In search of self-confident GWM age 21-30 who enjoys dining, dancing, romancing, music and conversation. Will answer all inquiries. DARE DRAWER 38.

## Q U O T E S

## Erasure of a kiss

"If [the British press] couldn't find something nasty to say about Erasure, they sure aren't above taking something out of context. I'm sure Boy George is a good enough sort, but I hardly know him!"

— **Erasure's Andy Bell**, denying stories that he had "soul kissed" Boy George at the Grammy-like British Press International Awards.

"Did I ever hit a woman? I slapped her...but very gently. You don't punch a woman the way you punch a man. It can be a sign of love. A man can hit a woman."

— **Actor Anthony Quinn**, neanderthal wanna-be, on the syndicated television show, *A Current Affair*.

"I don't like my voice. I don't like the way I look. I don't like the way I move. I don't like the way I act. I mean, period. So you know, I don't like myself."

— **Actress Elizabeth Taylor**, whose book, *Elizabeth Takes Off*, had asserted that the first step in self-improvement is liking yourself, on *Entertainment Tonight*.

"The tabloids always make me appear to be a vice queen and a prostitute. I cannot sue for damages when they write about my sex life 25 years ago. I hated them. I thought they were the devil's disciples."

— **Christine Keeler**, central figure in a 1963 sex scandal that helped topple Britain's Tory government, which provides the plot for this summer's film, *Scandal*.

"I thought he was quite good. But physically, he was all wrong."

— **Actor Matthew Broderick** talking about Marlon Brando who "horsed around" during filming of a new movie, *The Freshman*, by playing Broderick's girlfriend while running lines through rehearsals.

"All humans have the same human rights!"  
— **Slogan from the October, 1987, March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.**

"It means, 'I missed you. I love you. How

you been?"

— **Detroit Pistons' star Isaiah Thomas** to talk show maven Oprah Winfrey on why he kisses Los Angeles Lakers' star Magic Johnson "hello" before basketball games.

"In the 100-yard dash of men showing male affection, men have gone about a yard."

— **Warren Farrell**, author of *Why Men Are The Way They Are*, in a *USA Today* story about men kissing men.

"The old stars — Bing and Bob — kiss each other. Now we're homophobic. There's nothing wrong with showing a little love. I'm trying through example to create a new era."

— **Talk show host and Eddie Murphy best-pal, Arsenio Hall**, waxing eloquent on the subject of male affection.

"In pairing a story about homosexuals with one about AIDS, [*The Tennessean*] subtly reinforces the false notion that the disease is exclusively a problem of the gay community."

"Was this a deliberate act by an ignorant and bigoted *Tennessean* employee? I doubt it. More than likely the decision to place these stories on the same page was made like many in the newspaper business, motivated by the pressure of a deadline, the economy of

space and the 'logic' of content.

"This daily newspaper influences thousands of readers, as your sales staff, I am sure, frequently reminds potential advertisers. Don't fail these readers by promoting falsehood, whether by negligence or design."

— **Jackie Solomon**, of Murfreesboro, in a letter to the editor of Nashville's morning newspaper.

"I have not found an innocent person on earth. We are all guilty of sin. And we do not have to interpret the Bible in regards to homosexuality."

"The Bible is plain-spoken about homosexuality, and needs no interpretation. May God help those who are too illiterate to understand the plain, simple word of God."

— **H.L. Bingham**, in another *Tennessean* letter to the editor.

## ...he's back

• continued from page 6

which, hopefully, is a good sign about the administration's interest in AIDS education.

After orientation, I stayed an extra night in Troy to save on air fare. With orientation ending at noon, I had plenty of time to do nothing, which was good since there's not much to do in Troy. To fight boredom, I walked around town for a while.

Then something caught my eye: a large pink triangle on a billboard. I gave it a second look and realized it was an advertisement for Albany's Gay and Lesbian Pride Week. It had a phone number for information about the

events and, although the week had passed, I called the number.

The number belonged to the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Albany. The center provides a place to go to socialize or to attend meetings, including a weekly lesbian/gay youth group meeting.

It was exciting because we've also organized a youth group in Nashville. The group meets regularly, but could use some more members.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the group, let me know. Write me at P.O. Box 158002, Nashville, 37215-8002. •

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• Questions? Phone (615) 327-DARE.

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