

# Dare

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 35

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

SEPTEMBER 1 - 7, 1989

## Memphis AIDS activists charge anti-gay bigotry

*Health Department denies charges*

by JEFF ELLIS  
Editor

Memphis AIDS activists are up in arms over charges that staff members at the Shelby County Health Department are violating HIV testing confidentiality.

"Several months ago we received complaints that some people going to the health department for HIV testing were not being offered anonymous testing and were being treated very poorly," said Rita Underhill, education coordinator for the Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC). "The number and frequency of calls indicated to us that these incidents were happening far too frequently to be ignored."

Anonymity and confidentiality of HIV testing is important, activists say, because Tennessee does not have in place a law that protects against anti-AIDS discrimination. That means that employers are within their legal rights to fire workers and landlords may deny housing to persons who are HIV-positive.

Tennessee is the only state that does not offer discrimination protection to persons with HIV-positive status.

Tom Stewart, ATEAC president, in a story in last Saturday's *Commercial Appeal*, contended that some people being tested are not offered the option of not giving their names

and addresses.

Richard Swiggart, health department director, told the Memphis newspaper that his investigation does not support ATEAC claims.

"They raised a number of issues, among them that people are not being told of the two testing options," Swiggart said. "I have completely grilled, and I mean grilled, my staff and that's not the case."

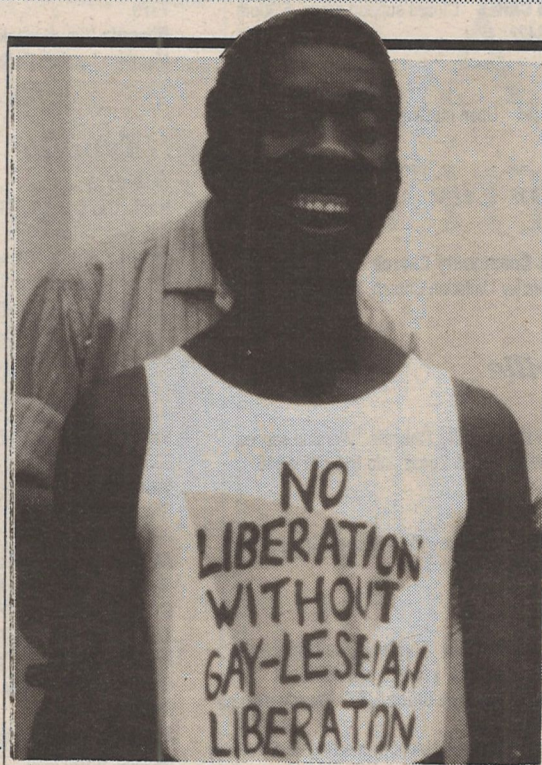
Persons being tested for HIV seropositivity should be offered two options, Underhill explained. Anonymous testing does not require the person's name be given, but instead asks for the person's birth date and ZIP code. Under confidential testing guidelines, any information used to track the person is kept in locked files.

People are needed for voluntary confidential testing because of the health department's participation in a U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) survey of HIV infection among a variety of groups.

Local AIDS activists, however, are perhaps more concerned by the lack of compassionate counseling being offered to persons who test HIV-positive, Underhill suggested.

In an interview on Memphis television station WREG, an man who asked not to be identified told reporter Susan Browning that a health

• continued on page 5



## Gay anti-apartheid activist to visit state

Simon Nkoli, openly gay South African anti-apartheid activist, will speak in Memphis, Saturday, September 8. The internationally-known human rights advocate, who was detained as part of the Delmas Treason Trial Group and ultimately acquitted of the charges, will appear as the guest of Black and White Men Together/Memphis. He is chair of the Gay/Lesbian Organization of Witwatersrand (GLOW), a non-racial organization.

Nkoli is on his first visit to North America, making stops in 14 cities in the U.S. and Canada: "I anxiously, but with enthusiasm, look forward to meeting and greeting so many people through the U.S. who gave me such strong support spiritually, monetarily and otherwise during my detention...It will be very tiring, but I must do it!" — PHOTO COURTESY BWMT / MEMPHIS

## Pastor to leave MCC/Nashville

*Tucker will move to MCC/Dallas*

by JEFF ELLIS  
Editor

Paul Tucker, pastor of Nashville's Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), will conduct his last service at the church on Sunday, September 10, prior to leaving for Dallas to join the pastorate of MCC in that Texas city.

Tucker, 32, leaves Nashville after some six and a half years as pastor, a time that has shown much growth in the local congregation.

"When I came to Nashville in 1982, we had 49 members and services were attended by about fifty or so people," Tucker said. "Now we have 98 members and just two weeks ago our Sunday night service attracted 106 people."

MCC/Nashville is the largest congregation in the denomination's Gulf-Lower Atlantic district.

Tucker will join the country's largest MCC congregation when he moves to Dallas. The congregations counts some 650 members and is staffed with six full-time workers, including two pastors.

"My position in Dallas will be the Pastoral Care division of the church," Tucker said. "I will have responsibility for directing the deacons program, prison ministry, lay ministers of the Pastoral Care program, Benevolence and the AIDS ministry of the church."

The board of directors of MCC/Nashville will convene later this week to form a search committee to find Tucker's replacement.

"Paul's probably held one of the longest pastorates in the history of MCC," said church treasurer Jac Gregory. "It's my understanding that the board will appoint a search committee to fill the position."

Penny Campbell, student clergy at MCC/Nashville, said MCC search committees spend an average of six months seeking replacement clergy.

"I personally don't think it will take us a long time to

• continued on page 4

## Openly gay rep asks for ethics probe

by JEFF ELLIS  
Editor

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), one of only two openly-gay members of the House of Representatives, this week called upon the House ethics committee to investigate his 18-month relationship with a male prostitute "to ensure that the public record is clear."

In another development in the growing controversy surrounding Frank's admitted involvement with the prostitute, George Washington University professor John Banzhof has filed a complaint against Frank in District of Columbia court, charging him with committing sodomy, which carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison.

The Frank controversy began last Friday when the fifth-term congressman admitted that he had hired Steve Gobie, 32, to serve as a personal assistant, only to fire the man two years ago for apparently selling sex from Frank's Washington apartment.

Frank's admission came after Gobie claimed, in a report published in the conservative Unification-church-

owned *Washington Times* last week, that Frank had paid him \$80 for a 1985 sexual encounter. Frank said he had procured Gobie's services through an ad in the *Washington Blade*, a Washington-based lesbian and gay newspaper.

Frank, considered one of Congress' leading liberals, said he employed Gobie, paying him from personal funds, in hopes he could help the younger man turn away from his life of prostitution of drug use.

"I thought I was Henry Higgins," Frank said, referring to the aristocratic protagonist of George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*.

Instead, Frank claimed, he was "victimized" by Gobie. "I was a loser. I lost money and I was embarrassed," Frank said during a Friday press conference in the Boston suburb of Newton.

Frank admitted that publication of the story might hurt him politically, but that his relationship with Gobie was what prompted him to acknowledge his homosexuality in 1987.

• continued on page 5

## I N S I D E

*Dare this week*

Watch out, radio bigots:  
Alan Herbers is making waves.  
Centerpiece, page 6.



Don't talk to me about being in the closet: Internalized homophobia.  
Soapbox, page 10.



Dear k.d.: What should we do with our guns?  
Quotes, page 12.





## D A T E S

## Just like clockwork

## Big events

Judy Eron, LCSW  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
Jim Siebold, PhD  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Individual and Couples Counseling  
615 329-1656

## Kowalski Chiropractic Clinic

Dr. Deborah Kowalski  
Chiropractic Physician

108 Harding Place, Belle Meade  
(615) 352-1234

ABBY R. RUBENFELD  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

WATTS, UNDERWOOD & RUBENFELD  
SUITE 150 / 2000 RICHARD JONES ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37215  
615 269-6778

## Gay/Lesbian Therapy Group

for information, contact  
Steve Davidson, LCSW  
(615) 391-0222  
Dorothy Stockard, ACSW  
(615) 360-7826

Joan Furman-Seaborg, M.S.N., R.N.

- Counseling
- Reiki Therapy
- Visualization for Health

524 East Iris Dr. (615) 297-6995  
Nashville, TN 37204 320-8508

## People to turn to.

Chattanooga Council on AIDS Resources,  
Education and Services (**Chattanooga CARES**)  
Box 8402, Chattanooga, TN 37411  
call (615) 266-2422

aids Response Knoxville (**aRK**)  
Box 3932, Knoxville, TN 37927  
call (615) 523-AIDS

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

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

this ad appears as a public service of Dare

## Chattanooga

## Sundays

**Metropolitan Community Church** Worship service,  
Unitarian Church. 7:30pm.

## Mondays

**Chattanooga CARES** Closed support group. 6:30pm.  
Info 615 266-2422.

## Thursdays

**Gay/Lesbian AA** Open meeting. Unitarian Church. 8pm.

## Johnson City

## Sundays

**Metropolitan Community Church** Worship service,  
7pm. Holston Valley Unitarian Church. Info 615 926-4393.

## Knoxville

## Sundays

**Metropolitan Community Church** Worship service,  
6pm. Corner Weisgarber & Lonas. Info 615 521-6546.

## Mondays

**aids Response Knoxville** PWA Support Group, 7-  
8:30pm. Info 615 523-AIDS.

## Tuesdays

**aids Response Knoxville** Circle of Love family and  
friends support group, 8pm. Info 615 523-AIDS.  
**Gay and Lesbian Student Union/UTK** Weekly meeting.  
8pm. Info 615 521-6546.

**Knoxville's Ten Percent** Monthly meeting, 2nd Tuesday  
only, 8pm. 1320 N. Central. Info 615 521-6546.

## Wednesdays

**aids Response Knoxville** HIV+ Support Group, 6:30pm.  
Info 615 523-AIDS.

## Memphis

## Mondays

**Gay Alternative Hour** Radio show, WEVL-FM 90, 6-  
7pm.

**Phoenix** (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting.  
Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 272-9549.

## Tuesdays

**Phoenix** (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting.  
Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30 and 8pm. Info  
901 272-9549.

## Wednesdays

**Phoenix** (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting.  
Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 272-9549.

## 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 901 272-9549.

**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-  
9549.

**Seriously Sober** (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting.  
Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info 901 272-9549.

## 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 901 272-9549.

## 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 901 272-9549.

## Nashville

## Mondays

**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.

**Vanderbilt AIDS Project** Story and Poetry Support  
Group (for PWAs), West End United Methodist Church.  
6:30pm. Info 615 322-2252.

**AI-Anon** Closed meeting, MCC. 6:30pm.

**Nashville Women's Alliance** Meeting, at the Book  
Oasis, 2824 Dogwood Pl. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays only.  
7:30pm. Info 615 292-7100.

**P-FLAG** Meeting of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and  
Gays, 4th Tuesday only. Unitarian Church. 7:30pm. Info 615  
662-0332.

**Sober Sisters** (Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous) Open  
meeting, MCC. 8pm.

## Wednesdays

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

**Nashville CARES** Newcomers Group. 6pm. Info 615  
385-1510.

**Affirmation** Meeting for lesbian and gay United  
Methodists. 4th Wednesday only. 7pm. Info 615 366-6448.

**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.

## Fridays

**Sexaholics Anonymous** Closed meeting, MCC. 5pm.

**Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group**  
Meeting, Belmont United Methodist. 7:30 pm.

## Saturdays

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

**Metropolitan Community Church** Community Dinner,  
all you can eat. 7:30pm. \$5. Info 615 320-0288.

## Sundays

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

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

## Saturday, September 2

**Button Show and Sale** Including lesbian, gay and  
progressive-cause memorabilia. Sponsored by Tennes-  
see Chapter, American Political Collectors. At Shoney's  
Inn of Music Valley, 2420 Music Valley Dr, Nashville.  
Free. 9am-3pm. Info 615 646-1605 or 615 824-2191.

**Forum** *Women's Issues in the Lesbian and Gay Com-  
munity.* Panel discussion on sexism, abortion and other  
topics. Metropolitan Community Church, 131 15th Ave  
North, Nashville. Free. 8:30pm, immediately following  
Community Dinner. Info 615 320-0288.

**LABOR**  
MAKES AMERICA  
*clock!*

## Monday, September 4

## LABOR DAY

## Saturday, September 9

**Dance** *The First Gays & Lesbians in Recovery Dance.*  
Sponsored by Gays and Lesbians in Recovery. Dress  
casual. Sodas and juices served. Unitarian Universalist  
Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. \$3.  
9:30pm-1am.

**Speech** Simon Nkoli, openly-gay South African anti-  
apartheid activist, will speak on his experiences as a  
human-rights advocate. Sponsored by Black and White  
Men Together / Memphis. Info 901 726-1461.

## Sunday, September 10

**Feminist Book Circle** Discussion of *The Dog Collar  
Murders* by Barbara Wilson. Unitarian Universalist  
Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. Free. 5-7pm.

## Saturday, September 16

**Women's Dance** Sponsored by Random Productions.  
Beer, setups available. Laurel Theatre, 1538 Laurel Ave,  
Knoxville. \$4. 8pm Info 615 633-3428.

## Sunday, September 17

**Dare First Night Theatre Awards** Benefit for Nash-  
ville CARES. At Z. Alexander Looby Theatre, Metro Center  
Blvd, Nashville. \$10. 7:30pm. Info 615 327-Dare.

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.



## BRIEFS

compiled by MARK LAWRENCE

**L/G teens troubled**

WASHINGTON — Lesbian and gay youth are at an increased risk for suicide, according to a report issued earlier this month by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The report, prepared under former DHHS secretary Otis R. Bowen, was completed in January but was not published until August, according to Kevin Berrill of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

The report said gay and lesbian youth are at increased risk for suicide and calls for "an end [to] discrimination against youths on the basis of such characteristics as disability, sexual orientation and financial status."

"According to research discussed in the DHHS report, suicide is the leading cause of death among lesbian, gay and other sexual minority youth," said Berrill, director of NGLTF's Anti-Violence Project. "The increased risk of suicide facing these youths is linked to growing up in a society that teaches them to hide and to hate themselves. We welcome this report and hope it will lead to action that will save lives."

Gibson's paper described suicide "as the leading cause of death among gay male, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual youth," and concluded that lesbian and gay youth "may comprise up to 30% of completed suicides annually."

Harry concluded that "homosexuals of both sexes are two to six times more likely to attempt suicide than are heterosexuals." •

**Peek-a-boo!**

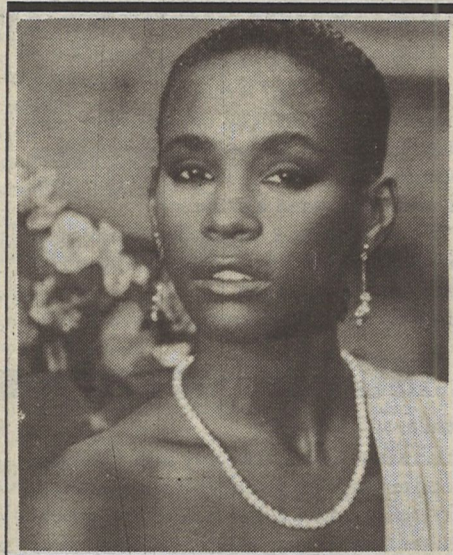
NEW YORK — *Out Week*, a recently established lesbian and gay newsmagazine, has garnered considerable attention for publishing the names of 66 famous people who are apparently supposed to be closeted homosexuals.

The list of names was printed in a gray box on page 40 with the headline "Peek-A-Boo." No explanation of the list is contained in the box or anywhere else in the issue.

"We're trying to combine humor with making statements," said *Out Week* features editor Michaelangelo Signorile. "'Peek-A-Boo' makes a statement, although I'm not prepared to comment on what that statement is. It's whatever people interpret it as."

As they appear in the list, the names, which do not seem to be in any special order, are: Illinois Gov. Jim Thompson, Michael Jackson, Leonard Bernstein, Kim Novak, Linda Ellerbee, Joey Heatherton, Dom DeLuise, Mike Tyson, Tony Perkins, Tony Randall, Burt Reynolds, Robert Downey, Jr., George Michael, Carol Bellamy, Reno, Don Johnson, Jim Revson, Calvin Klein, Billy Norwich, k.d. lang, Michelle Shocked, Gordon Thompson, Tracy Chapman, Kate Jackson, Linda Evans, Debbie Reynolds, Sue Simmons, Whitney Houston, Kelly McGillis, Jodie Foster, Brian Boitano, Greg Louganis, Bruce Jenner, Ed Koch, Helen Reddy, Stephen Saban, Keith Hernandez, Fran Tarkenton, Ron Reagan, Jr., Eddie Murphy, Doris Day, Storm Field, Brett Easton Ellis, Maureen McGovern, Stephen Sondheim, James Levine, Gian Carlo Menotti, Samuel Barber, Luther Vandross, Richard Simmons, Paul Reubens, Malcolm Forbes, Whoopi Gold-

berg, Chastity Bono, Sylvester Stallone, Brigitte Nielsen, Olivia Newton John, John Travolta, Liz Smith, Iris Love, Richard Carpenter, Kaye Ballard, Tatiana Troyanos, Jym J. Bullock, Samantha Fox, and (Downtown) Julie Brown. •



Whitney Houston, the pop singer whose name appeared in *Out Week*'s "Peek-a-boo" list.

**PWA's estate wins**

SAN FRANCISCO — California's Court of Appeals has ruled that Raytheon Corp. illegally discriminated against an employee with AIDS.

The case was originally brought against Raytheon by National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) and the Employment Law Center after the company refused to allow John Chadbourne, a quality control analyst, to work after he was diagnosed with AIDS.

"The Appellate Court's decision confirms that Raytheon was out of step with the rest of corporate America and will be held liable for its discrimination against John Chadbourne," said Leonard Graff, NGRA's legal director.

Chadbourne died of complications from AIDS in 1985. Raytheon has been ordered to pay back wages and attorneys' fees to his estate, and must initiate an employee training program on AIDS in the workplace. •

**Witness sought**

NEW YORK — Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is looking for a retired high-ranking Naval officer to testify in the case of Joseph Steffan, who was discharged from the Naval Academy for being gay.

Lambda sued, saying the discharge was unconstitutional discrimination. They are now seeking a former officer who is willing to submit an affidavit on the effectiveness of lesbians and gay men in the armed forces.

Lambda would like to show that homosexuals have served and are serving effectively in the armed forces; are generally accepted by their peers and are not a threat to the military mission; that any issues that do arise concerning gays in the military are caused by individual bias, not by the deficiencies of homosexuals; and that commanding officers do not ordinarily seek the discharge of homosexuals unless there is a specific problem regarding the soldier's sexual orientation. •

# And the winner is...



The votes are in.

The best of Nashville theater, as chosen by *Dare* readers, will be honored in each of ten categories. Of course, there'll be singing, dancing, comedy. And the drama of finding out who the winners are, chosen from among the past year's best local productions.

You'll enjoy live original-cast performances from Rave Revues' *Avante Garage*, Nashville Public Theatre's *Quilters*, Gallatin Arts Council's *The Business of Marriage*, Circle Players' *Frivolities* and more.

Hosted by Shane Caldwell,

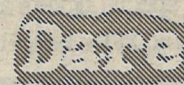
one of the two funniest Sylvan Brothers, the show features special appearances by singer/actress Martha Gabel and by performance artist Rusel Brown.

Sunday, September 17, 7:30 p.m., at the Z. Alexander Looby Theatre, 2301 Metrocenter Boulevard in Nashville.

Tickets \$10 at the door.

Of course, the evening's real winner will be the clients of Nashville CARES. All proceeds from First Night benefit Nashville CARES.

To find out more about First Night, phone (615) 327-Dare.



Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly



## Chez Colette

Chez Colette  
présente maintenant  
l'heure gai 16. - 19. h

Chez Colette  
presents Happy Hour  
4 - 7 p.m.

407 1st Ave S, Nashville 615-256-9134

## World Famous Jungle

306 4TH AVE S., NASHVILLE

SEPTEMBER 4TH  
LABOR DAY  
1 PM TILL  
ON THE PATIO  
COOKOUT  
NO COVER

SEPTEMBER 12TH  
10TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

## Strut your stuff!

at the Gas Lite Review  
Do you sing?

- play a musical instrument? • dance?
- do comedy? • juggle? • ???

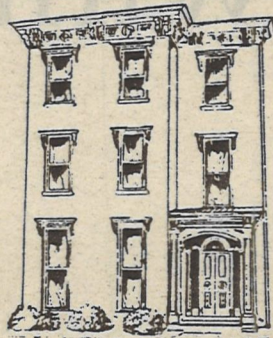
Auditions Sunday, Sept. 10, 2 - 4 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 11, 7 - 8 p.m.

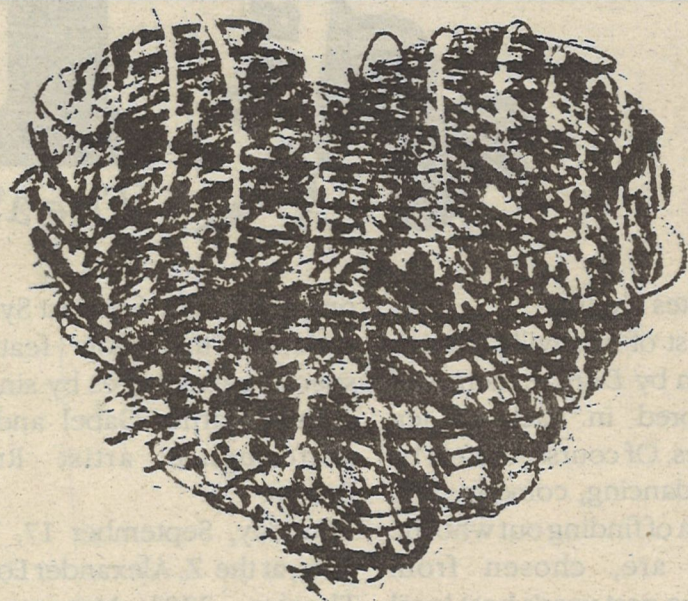
The review will be Saturday, Sept. 30.

This will be a talent showcase,  
not a contest. Register at the  
Gas Lite Lounge.

167 1/2 Eighth Avenue North • 615 254-1278



The  
Gas Lite  
Lounge



## Heart Strings: A Musical Evening Of Hope For The Healing Of AIDS.

Heart Strings: The National Tour is coming to Nashville for one night only, Thursday, September 28, at 7:30 p.m., at the Polk Theatre in the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. Outstanding local stars will join the musical revue which benefits Nashville CARES, Minority AIDS Outreach, and the Vanderbilt AIDS Project. Regular tickets: \$25 through TICKETMASTER. Ticket plus pre-show buffet and post-show champagne cast party: \$100. Ticket plus cast party: \$50. Call 385-0140 for special tickets and information.

Heart Strings: The National Tour is a project of DIFFA, Design Industries Foundation for AIDS.

## Gay deputy sheriff fired, files suit

by MARK LAWRENCE  
Staff Writer

Former Orange County, Florida, Deputy Sheriff Thomas Woodard has filed suit against Sheriff Walter J. Gallagher following an investigation that led to Woodard's forced resignation from the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Woodard claims the investigation into reports that he had a private sexual relationship with another man constituted an unconstitutional invasion of his privacy.

After telling investigators that he is bisexual, he was offered the choice of resignation or

termination. He resigned after being assured that the investigation would be kept confidential. However, he claims that details of the investigation were then made available to the press in violation of this assurance.

According to Paula L. Ettelbrick, legal director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which is handling the case for Woodard, "The Woodard case is a striking example of an employer — in this case, a governmental institution — which spitefully ignored and willfully violated the privacy rights guaranteed under a state constitution." •

## Evanston passes rights ordinance

by MARK LAWRENCE  
Staff Writer

Evanston, Illinois, city officials were surprised to discover that sexual orientation was not included in the city's equal employment act, and have added it to the law.

"We all thought it was included already," said Shelley Volk, chair of the Evanston Human Rights Commission.

In February, the Evanston Human Rights

Coalition brought the omission to the attention of the commission, which unanimously recommended adding sexual orientation to the act.

"We didn't think twice about it. It was not a controversial thing," said Volk.

The City Council voted 16 to one to approve the measure, with the lone dissenter saying only that the law was not necessary. Mayor Joan Barr signed the bill into law. •

## ...MCC's Tucker resigns

• continued from page 1

find a new pastor," Gregory said. "We have a good resource person, district representative Mary Moore, who will assist us in finding a new minister. 'We're going to go on with our work, continuing ministering to the community while we look for a new pastor.'"

Tucker's decision to leave Nashville followed a trip to Dallas to interview for the position there after several years of invitations from the Texas congregation.

"They had asked me several years ago, but I declined. They had asked me several times since then. They just wouldn't go away," Tucker explained.

MCC is an international fellowship of lesbian- and gay-affirmative congregations. Although not limited to lesbian and/or gay members, the majority of the church's members are lesbian or gay.

"The most difficult thing about the church in Dallas will be learning everyone's name. In a church that size, the pastor doesn't know everything. In Nashville, I know everything that's going on," Tucker said. "But the most

difficult thing about leaving Nashville is leaving behind my friends in the church who have really been my family during the past six and a half years."

The general reaction among Nashville MCC members has been paradoxical, Tucker said.

"Everyone is happy for me, that I'm going to Dallas. But they're sad of Nashville, that I'll be leaving," he said.

"Paul has been here for almost seven years and has a large group of friends outside the church, which speaks well of his ministry," Gregory said. "He has been a positive influence throughout the community as a whole, as well as the lesbian and gay community, by always being happy to appear at various schools and colleges. He's even spoken at the police academy."

"I was very surprised and very shocked when Paul told me he was leaving," Campbell said. "I knew the Dallas church had wanted

him to come for quite some time. He's certainly going to be missed by all of his friends in Nashville."

Prior to coming to Tennessee, Tucker had served churches in Asheville, N.C., Atlanta and Birmingham. He attended Birmingham Southern College and the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta.

He served as pastor of the Fairmont United Methodist Church in Birmingham before joining MCC.

"The first time I went to an MCC meeting, I knew I was home," Tucker remembered.

During his tenure with the Nashville church,

membership has increased and the congregation has begun a building fund to secure a new facility.

"I'm pleased, for the most part, with what the church has accomplished while I've been here. I'm especially proud of the role the church has played in the local lesbian and gay community," Tucker said.

"It's been a haven for people. It's definitely been one of the best experiences in my life, a really exciting

experience," he added.

"MCC, in a city like Nashville, provides a physical, gay-oriented place. It's a political force as well. Often, the pastor of MCC is the officially 'out' gay member of the community. Paul has served as the 'out' gay person in Nashville ever since he first arrived," Campbell said.

Tucker said his only disappointment about leaving MCC/Nashville is that he will not "be the one to take them to their next step, a new building."

Plans for the move to a new facility are likely to be put on hold, Tucker said, until a new pastor has been found for the congregation.

"The only thing that's kept us from moving to a new facility is the sale of our present building," Gregory said. "It's important that we make that move to a new building so that we can better serve the lesbian and gay community." •



Paul Tucker — DARE FILE PHOTO



## ...Memphis activists charge bigotry

• continued from page 1

department counselor told him, "You're like all the other queers in this city. You've got AIDS and you're gonna die."

"The man had called the AIDS hotline and I talked to him," Underhill said. "He was quite upset by the treatment he had received."

Swiggart denied any wrong-doing by his staff, calling the charges "ridiculous, unfounded and not true."

However, internal complaints may have played a role in the dismissal or transfer of four staff members.

"One person complained about a lack of education for counselors and testers," Underhill said. "She was fired within her six-month probation period. Another person there told an inmate at the Shelby County Jail that he

didn't have to tell his HIV status to guards and was fired. Still another, who had been on staff quite a while, quit because of dissatisfaction with the way things were being handled."

Yet another staff member was transferred to another department after complaining about the way HIV testing is being conducted.

Five former health department workers told WREG that confidentiality "just doesn't exist" at the health department.

"Things will probably get better at the health department for a little while," Underhill said. "That will continue until officials there think everything has died down."

Health department records indicate that some 1,027 anonymous HIV tests and 237 confidential tests have been performed by staff members this year. •

## ...Frank asks for ethics probe

• continued from page 1

Privately, staffers in Frank's congressional office have said they are confident he will withstand ethics committee scrutiny and come out of the whole Gobie controversy with his integrity, and elected office, intact.

"He couldn't have picked a better time for this to happen," said Robert Bray of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the nation's largest lesbian and gay political action committee. "Congress is not in session in August. The story would not have gotten so much media attention if it weren't such a slow news time in Washington."

Kevin Berrill, of the Washington-based National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, told *Dare* that the incident "should be looked at in context of the series of scandals currently involving members of Congress."

"I think there will be some negative fallout," Berrill conceded. "It's a fact of life that gays and other minorities are held to a higher standard of conduct. And that's very unfortunate."

Bray agreed: "It's very disturbing that being gay is still a lightning rod for our detractors. There seems to be an increased prurient interest in the lives of lesbian and gay people. It's unfortunate we have to be held up to a double standard."

During his tenure in the House, Frank has been at the forefront of liberal causes, including battles over housing legislation, civil rights and immigration laws.

A poll of 400 voters in Frank's district, conducted by *The Boston Globe* and WBZ-TV, showed overwhelming support for their representative. Some 65.3% of those polled said they did not think Frank should resign, while only 22.3% thought he should quit.

In another poll, *The Boston Herald* and WCVB-TV canvassed 300 voters, 56% of whom said Frank "has performed well enough as a congressman to deserve re-election." Some 29% called for his removal from office and another 5% said it depended on who Frank's opponent is in the 1990 elections.

Congressional leaders also expressed support for Frank, including House Speaker Thomas Foley (D-Wash.) who issued a statement which read: "There is no more able, articulate and effective member of the House of Representatives than Barney Frank. He has provided outstanding service to his constituency and the

nation, and I'm absolutely confident he will continue to do so long after this matter has been forgotten."

HRCF's Bray told *Dare* Tuesday that he expects Frank to weather the current political storm, saying "If anyone can survive this, Barney Frank can."

"We're concerned about what's happening to Rep. Frank, but we're certain he will prevail," Bray said. "He's been very honest with himself, with his constituents and with Congress. He has an outstanding record and has received the backing of House Democratic leadership."

Bray said the Frank controversy overshadows what he called "the underlying issue" — political figures who remain closeted.

"When you live in the closet, you are vulnerable to illicitness, subterfuge and blackmail and may make decisions against your better judgment," Bray said. "Hopefully, this incident will encourage lesbians and gay men considering running for, or now holding, political office to come out of the closet and to use that honesty and integrity to win support and to get on to the issue at hand — serving their constituents effectively."

NGLTF's Berrill said the impact of this "obviously painful and difficult" episode will likely be short-lived.

"This whole episode has been personally and politically embarrassing for Rep. Frank, but we have confidence in his abilities as a political leader," Berrill said. "He is a competent, inspiring, effective leader in the house, a champion of rights for the downtrodden."

Both Berrill and Bray said they believed Frank's statements about his relationship with Gobie and that Frank's conduct in the matter "will serve him well."

"Barney is someone who sees himself being held accountable for what he has done and is taking responsibility," Berrill said. "He could have been much more evasive and unapproachable. But instead he was very honest and forthright in his dealing with the incident."

Frank said he paid Gobie about \$20,000, from personal funds, for working as his aide, housekeeper and chauffeur. He fired Gobie, he explained, when his landlord complained a second time about possibly questionable activities in Frank's Washington apartment while he was out of town. •



Barney Frank

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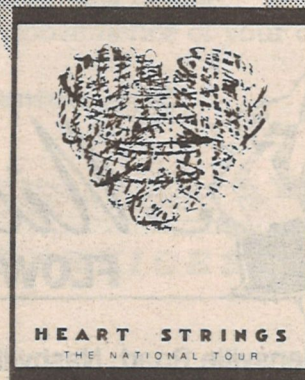
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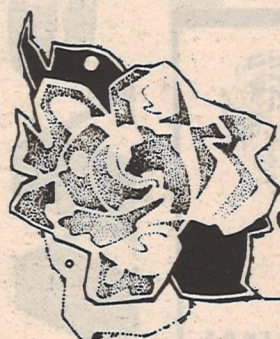
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**N**ashvillian John Alan Herbers is not a very imposing man. He's 31, mild-mannered, soft-spoken, shy and very easy to get along with. Not the kind of man you'd think could take on the top radio station in a major market. And win. Single-handedly.

by **LAURA  
TEK  
Staff  
Writer**

On May 23, this column appeared for the first time in an attempt to educate readers about a homophobic, sarcastic parody that was being played regularly on WKDF-FM 103 radio in Nashville. We asked our readers to respond accordingly by letting WKDF know that we, as a community, did not appreciate the parody and that we demand it be taken off the air.

John Alan Herbers responded. Mightily.

"When I read the column in *Dare*, it just infuriated me because radio stations are for all people," Herbers said. "No matter what their programming is, they have a license to serve the public, and they were attacking me.

"I don't consider myself an activist, I consider myself active. I volunteer a lot of my time to Nashville CARES and I want to become more active in the Pride Week committee. I just do what I feel is right for me. I just want to protect myself and help others protect themselves."

So, on May 23, Herbers sat down and wrote a letter explaining his position to Kidd Redd, WKDF's programming director. He said, among other things, that he "was offended by their act of irresponsibility and would settle for nothing less than an over-the-air apology."

On June 7, Kidd Redd responded. He wrote back stating, "Our broadcast of the parody mentioned is meant in no way to incite hate, violence or homophobia. We feel it to be simply a humorous look at one aspect of the rich and varied community of which we are proud to be a part."

Herbers didn't buy it, especially when Redd closed his letter by stating, "I invite you to suggest any topics for our program, Focus, our public affairs program, that you feel might be of interest to Nashville's gay community."

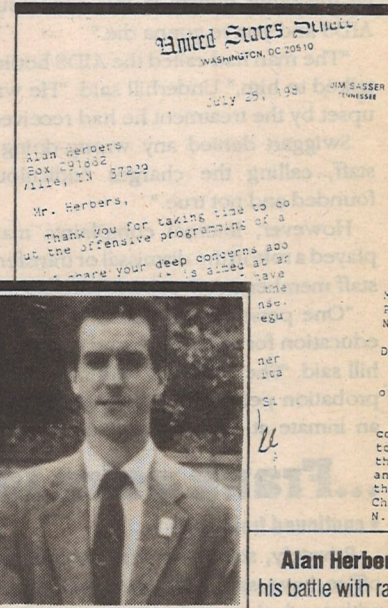
"That's not what I wanted," Herbers said. "I didn't want to appear on radio. I didn't do anything wrong. They did."

On June 13, Herbers wrote back to WKDF, but this time to general manager Steve Dickert.

Herbers again explained his position and reiterated his complaint. He told Dickert: "I feel the response I received from Kidd Redd was ludicrous at best. What was humorous about this parody?...Again, all I ask from you is a simple retraction and an apology for those, such as myself, who may have been offended by this act of blatant discrimination. I also ask that the apology be aired during the same time frame that the parody was played. If my request is granted, my complaint will go no further and there will be no more correspondence regarding this matter."

But WKDF didn't apologize. Instead, on June 20, Dickert followed up Herbers' second demand for an apology with the same invitation Redd had offered, to air his complaints on radio.

## CENTER WAVE



Alan Herbers, at left, and his battle with radio station WKDF.

## Doing something

"That was it," Herbers said. "They just didn't get it. All I wanted from them was an apology and they just wouldn't do it. I could tell now that their feathers were ruffled, but that was too bad. They ruffled mine first."

"I asked them once if they would ever air this same type of humor and direct it at the black or Jewish communities? They said, 'No,' because they know that if they did, their license would be yanked in a minute. So they knew that they picked a minority that was an easy target, one that wasn't or may not be as persuasive, or threatening."

So Herbers felt he had no choice but to write Dickert again, and to state, "I feel it is a great pity that you have denied my request to broadcast a disclaimer against hatred and violence toward gays that may have been a direct result of the parody that your station aired. Again, I am declining your offer to share my views on your program, Focus. I feel it is your responsibility to apologize for your reckless behavior, not mine. I have chosen to pursue my complaint to my elected representatives in Washington and to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)...Hopefully, now you will understand how serious I am about my complaint."

What followed were letters to U.S. Rep. Bob Clement (D-5th District), Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.) and Sen. Jim Sasser (D-Tenn.).

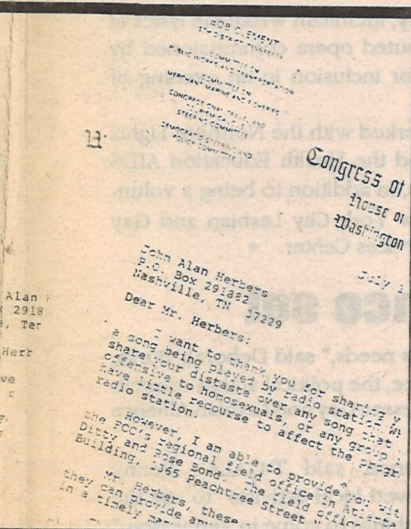
Herbers explained to all three his problem with WKDF, including his discussions with Dickert, and his multiple requests for a statement disclaiming violence against gays and lesbians to be broadcast. He closed his letters by asking for a referral from their offices to someone at the FCC to whom he could further his complaint.

**ONE WEEK LATER**, while flipping through and finding their address in *The Advocate*, Herbers also decided to write to GLAAD,





# R P I E C E S



t, and some of the correspondence he generated in  
on WKDF-FM in Nashville. — DARE FILE PHOTO

## ing about it

the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. GLAAD is a fairly new organization that encourages gay men and lesbians to call or write to them whenever blatant media homophobia is aired. This was now a quest for justice, Herbers thought, so he vowed to leave no stone unturned.

Only days after that, to Herbers' surprise, all three elected officials responded to Herbers' request.

Clement gave him the name of two contact people at the FCC's regional office in Atlanta.

Gore and Sasser gave him the name and address of the FCC's chair, Dennis Patrick, in Washington. Gore actually forwarded a copy of Herbers' letter, along with one of his own, to Patrick expressing his outrage at the whole incident.

Gore's letter to Herbers stated: "I will continue to press the FCC to strictly enforce their regulations prohibiting this type of offensive programming."

"Albert Gore was the biggest help," Herbers says. "He went above and beyond what I had ever expected."

But it was at Clement's suggestion that Herbers decided to write Angelo Ditty, head of the FCC's regional office in Atlanta. In that letter, dated July 26, he stated, "I respectfully urge you to intervene on my behalf and act within your official capacity to persuade WKDF-FM and Steve Dickert to satisfy my complaint."

The FCC's Public Service Department responded to Herbers on August 1: "We are bringing this matter to the attention of the Director of the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters, who will act as mediator between you and the station."

In addition, they attached with that letter a copy of the FCC's position on broadcast censorship of the issue of homosexuality.

"I did not want censorship," Herbers says. "I never wanted

that. All I wanted was an apology. I think Dickert now was beginning to think that I was after their license. I was never after their license. I guess that was just how my letters were coming across, with such a vengeance, that they believed I was after their license."

The FCC's position on broadcasts involving homosexuals, and this case, where homosexuals may be impersonated, is a very broad one. It flatly states, "The FCC is prohibited by law from censoring broadcast matter and from taking any action that would interfere with freedom of speech in broadcasting."

"However, the Commission has consistently recommended that concerned persons communicate their opinions about specific broadcasts, preferably in writing, to stations and also to network organizations so that the people who are responsible for selecting programs may become better informed about audience opinions and reactions."

It seemed that Herbers, so far, was on the right track.

SO NOW HERBERS had a mediator, and as he put it, "It was now kind of out of my hands, like a lawyer now working for his client. I could only sit back now and see what happens."

About this same time, on August 2, Karin Schwartz, GLAAD's assistant director, wrote her own letter to Steve Dickert.

"Most radio stations that lampoon gays do not make jokes at the expense of racial and ethnic minorities," she wrote. "So this type of programming reinforces the message to many listeners that while other forms of bigotry are not acceptable, homophobia is."

"We ask you to reconsider your position, and to develop editorials to be delivered by station management deploring bigotry and violence against any segment of our society, particularly gays and lesbians."

"Also, I have enclosed the text of a public service announcement produced for GLAAD by legendary comedian Bob Hope in which he condemns anti-gay violence. Bob Hope has a very high approval rating among those segments of society who dislike gays, which makes him a particularly effective spokesperson on the issue. We will send you the audio version on request."

After almost three weeks of quiet negotiation between Dickert and Herbers' mediator, Witt Adamson of the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters, the whole issue was resolved on August 23. Schwartz' offer was one that couldn't be refused.

Dickert wrote back to Schwartz stating, "I wish to assure you that our entire staff is very concerned about violence aimed at any segment of our society and would never do anything intentionally to promote such a concept."

"Our programming staff reviewed the Bob Hope Public Service announcement concerning non-violence against gays, and we find it very appropriate. Please forward the audio version to me at your earliest opportunity and we will air this announcement a minimum of 24 times

• continued on page 8

Dare

7



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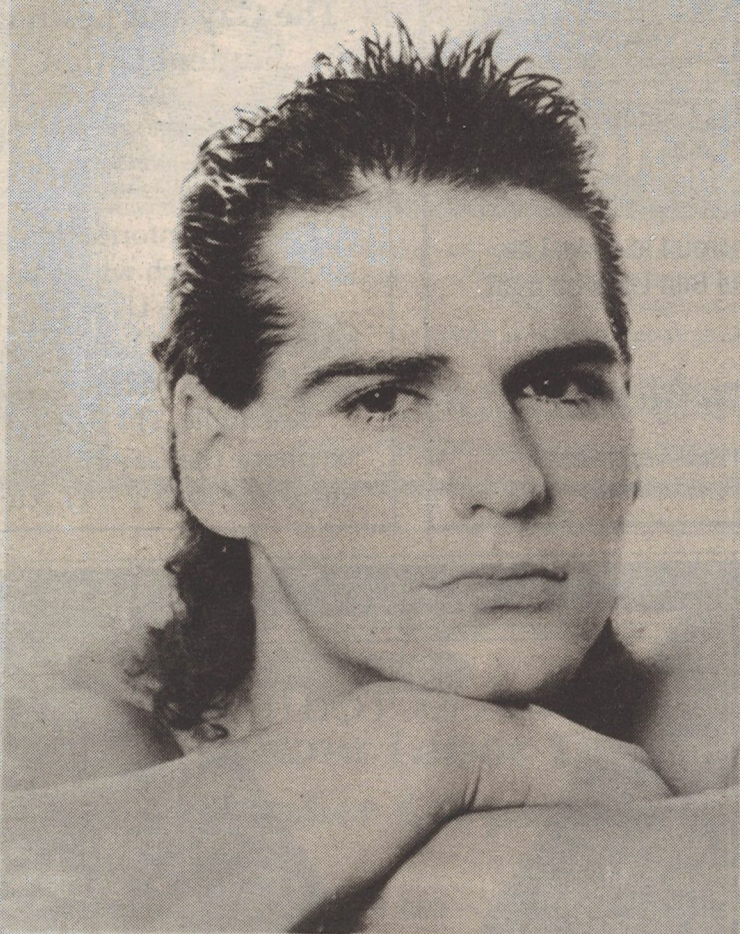
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## Former Knoxvilleian McIntosh dies

from STAFF REPORTS

NEW YORK—David McIntosh died on June 14, 1989, from AIDS.

A horticulturalist, playwright and poet, McIntosh had been writer-in-residence at The Play Group in Knoxville, producing eight plays during his tenure there, including: 22 RPM, The Terrific Two, Church, Smoke on the Mountains, Tell Me A Story, Hello! Lacie and The Piper Man.

One book of poetry by McIntosh, A Knoxville Book, was published in 1977 by Catfish

Press. Hello! Lacie was cited as one of the best plays of 1977-78 by the American Critics Association.

More recently, McIntosh wrote the lyrics of Can, a ten-minuted opera commissioned by Joseph Papp for inclusion in an evening of short pieces.

McIntosh worked with the Northern Lights Alternatives and the Health Education AIDS Liaison (HEAL), in addition to being a volunteer at the New York City Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. •

## Creating Change Conference set

by JEFF ELLIS

Editor

Some 48 workshops, geared at building organizational skills for lesbian and gay community leaders, are on tap for the second annual Creating Change Conference, to be held in Washington, D.C. November 10-12.

Sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), the conference workshops will be divided into six tracks that will address campus organizing; organizational issues; legislative issues; skill building; issue organizing; movement building. A special one-day pre-conference fund-raising seminar for lesbian and gay organizations is planned for November 9.

"The Creating Change Conference is the annual convention for lesbian and gay activists working for political and social change at the local, state and national level," said Urvashi Vaid, NGLTF executive director. "This year's conference will feature a wide array of workshops that reflect the depth and breadth of our movement."

The 1989 conference will include keynote speeches by Perry Watkins, Vito Russo and Suzanne Pharr. It will also feature an exhibit area, a video/film/slide presentation area, and an "information exchange" for groups to swap brochures and other materials.

The 1988 conference, NGLTF's first, was hailed as "groundbreaking," "useful," and "extremely relevant" by activists from throughout the country. More than 250 women and men from 28 states attended last year's conference.

"One thing I really liked was that it (the 1988 conference) offered a wide range of topics for organizations on different levels to accommo-

date everyone's needs," said Deborah Burks, chair of Advance, the political action committee of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA).

The conference, said T-GALA's Penny Campbell, allowed local activists "to see the possibilities of things to come in Tennessee."

"I was particularly impressed with a workshop I attended about youth, talking about gay and lesbian teenagers," Campbell said. "It was real encouraging to see that other communities have youth support services in place."

Workshops planned for this year's meeting includes: Organizing Against Violence; Gay Men and Lesbians in the Military; Mediawork 101; De-Gaying and Re-Gaying of AIDS; Un-learning Racism for Activists; Combatting Homophobia on Campus; Sexphobia from the Halls of Congress to the Local School Board; and Getting the Most Out of Meetings.

"Last year, it was affirming and reassuring to meet activists from all around the country and hearing that they have the same problems that we have in T-GALA," Burks added. "We shared a lot of good information and gained a lot of support from a number of people."

More than 400 are expected this year.

"We are working to ensure that the workshops deliver top-notch presentations by the best strategists in our movement," Vaid said.

Most conference activities will take place at the Holiday Inn in Bethesda, Maryland, just outside Washington. The event will be accessible for hearing-impaired and physically-challenged activists.

Registration and other information about the Creating Change Conference is from: Creating Change, NGLTF, 1517 U. Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. •

## ...doing something about it

• continued from page 7

within the first month after receipt."

Everybody, from Herbers, Gore, Ditty, Sasser, Adamson to Clement was cc'd on that one.

Herbers feels vindicated: "I'm very pleased with the outcome, I'm now in the process of writing thank you letters to everyone, especially WKDF because I really believe that they are truly sorry."

He also thinks that Bob Hope can do a better job on the radio than he could.

"They all thought that I was acting on behalf of an organization, but I kept telling them I wasn't. I told them I'm just one person, not a community spokesman, I was just doing what I felt was right," he says.

The Bob Hope public service announcement states:

"I'm proud to live in this great, free country. I'm proud of our commitment to free speech...and I'm proud of our country's commitment to protecting the rights of its citizens to work and live free from bigotry and vio-

lence. That's why I was amazed to discover that many people die each year in anti-gay attacks and thousands more are left scarred, emotionally and physically. Bigotry has no place in this great nation and violence has no place in this world. But it happens. Prejudice hurts...kills. Please don't be part of it...by your words or by your deeds. Thank you."

"This has been a learning experience," Herbers says. "I'm glad that I did this, it proves that just by writing to the right people, you can get action, your voice can be heard. I've always known that people just won't know unless you tell them. If you say nothing then nothing gets done. The pen can be a sword."

When asked if he thought the incident is now over and if he would have continued to contact people, he replied, "Only at election time."

If you have any complaints or comments about the media, please call us at (615) 327-Dare or write us at: Waves, Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, TN, 37204-0422. •



## PAGES

## Two from Clausen

*The Prosperine Papers*. Jan Clausen. Freedom, CA: The Crossing Press, 1988. 260 pages, \$8.95 paper.  
*Books & Life*. Jan Clausen. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1989. 237 pages, \$24.95, \$8.95 paper.

reviewed by **SHERRE DRYDEN**  
 Book Editor

## I OWE JAN CLAUSEN an apology.

I put off reading her newest novel. *The Prosperine Papers* ("Dale McNab is having a rough year...She and her lover, Linda, have been fighting about everything from non-monogamy to Linda's teenage daughter.") because it sounded like one of those lesbian romances where everyone winds up baking whole-grain bread and watching the sun rise.

Later, I put off reading *Books & Life*, a collection of Clausen's essays, speeches and reviews. Something I read about her "Irreverence for the politically correct" led me to expect another Florence King, whose own essays are sardonic, witty and enjoyable, but seldom teach or provoke thought.

The rare opportunity to compare theory with practice of a "popular" lesbian feminist writer precipitated a change of mind and the decision to read both books.

The writings assembled in *Books & Life* cover topics as diverse as the poetry of Lorine Niedecker and lesbian parenting.

Of particular interest were those on the relationship between ideology and creative writing. These essays begin with "A Movement of Poets: Thoughts on Poetry and Feminism" (1981) and conclude with "Mending the Silences: New Directions for Feminist Poetry."

Clausen is indeed irreverent toward the idea of the politically correct. But these are not facile dissertations tossed off to entertain the politically incorrect masses. Clausen has clearly given much thought to her topic and has some serious, important things to say. She has also taken considerable risk by calling attention to the restrictive effect of the application of certain feminist ideologies to poetry and fiction written by feminists.

In "A Movement of Poets" Clausen outlines six assumptions of recent feminist poetic practice, assumptions which she thinks have evolved from the early drive to assure that feminist writing was anti-patriarchal: "almost bound to be defined, negatively, in contrast to what was perceived as the male poetry tradition." These assumptions, which I believe can be extended to fiction as well as poetry, have become an implicit standard against which a feminist writer measures her work, "even while heeding the imperative of her own voice." Others will judge the feminist writer's work by how closely she follows the standard.

The danger (and the actuality, Clausen suggests) of such a standard, even a feminist one, is that it becomes nearly as oppressive as the tradition it was constructed to oppose. If feminist writing is expected to be useful, accessible, about specific subject matter, the product of a collective process and a world sufficient unto itself, and if criticism of feminist

writing is politically suspect, is it not also liable to become constrained and predictable?

Given that Clausen finds these assumptions of feminist writing problematic, her own fiction should reflect an attempt to write in a way that is informed by feminism, but not bowed down by it. In many ways, some of them superficial, others less evident, *The Prosperine Papers* is a feminist novel without being oppressed by feminist ideology.

Clausen's protagonist is Dale McNab, an American Studies professor denied tenure by her eastern university. On her way from the Modern Language Association conference back to her suburban home, Dale stops to visit her grandmother.

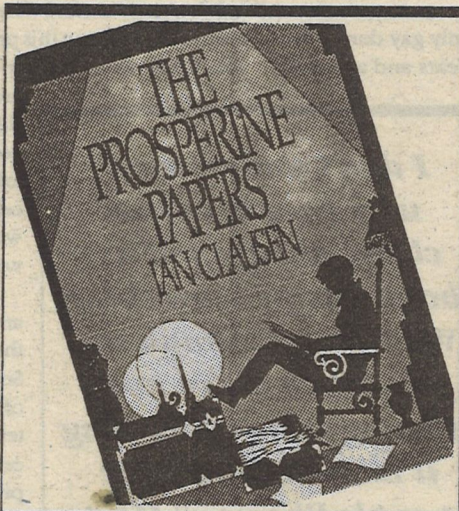
Grandma Rose, now in a retirement home, dreams of publishing her memoirs of growing up the daughter of German-immigrant farmers, defying her father to attend high school, marrying Eugene Schlaghoffer before he could go off to war, rearing her children. Dale, to please

Grandma Rose, because she remembers the woman's stories fondly, from a sense of the importance of common women's words, agrees to help. In the process she discovers Prosperine Munkers, Rose's girlhood friend.

Dale becomes entangled with Prosperine, who died sometime after Rose's marriage. As she uncovers more and more evidence that Prosperine was a lesbian, that her love for Rose Bright was physical as well as spiritual and that her brief career as a reporter for a socialist newspaper establishes Prosperine as a true radical lesbian foremother, Dale comes to think of Prosperine's history as her property. Her quest for the true Prosperine is exciting—we want her to uncover the truth, we want her to tell the world about Prosperine. The quest is frightening, too, because we feel Dale's growing sense of territoriality about Prosperine, and her anger when that territory is threatened.

**CLAUSEN'S AVOIDANCE** of strict adherence to assumptions of the feminist literary practice she outlines in *Books & Life* is sometimes awkward and obvious. She occasionally sermonizes: one on an Indian woman leaps to mind. Dale's repeated butch/femme references seem contrived, too. The terms should not be excised as descriptors of lesbian-ness, but her use is more defiant than natural.

Clausen is at her best with Dale's reminiscences about her childhood and early loves, and with Prosperine's letters to Rose. That sad, bitter letter, Prosperine's response to Rose's marriage announcement, is especially moving. These passages are poetic, luminous images of the lives of two common women—and some of the most memorable "feminist" fiction I have read. •



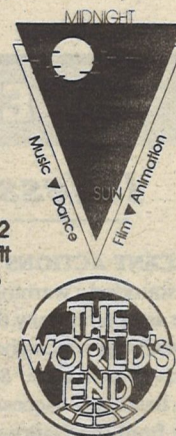
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**Dare**

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## VIEWS

*Is Jesse art?*

**RECENT ACTIONS** BY the U.S. Congress have sounded a warning bell among members of the arts community throughout the country — a warning which should be confronted.

Arch-conservative Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) has been successful in his fight to cut funds from the National Endowment for the Arts' budget.

His reason? The exhibition of art which he deemed to be objectionable, was being funded in part by the Endowment.

That Helms should abuse the power of his office in such a way should come as no surprise. Throughout his career in public life, Helms has time and again pursued his own radical-right legislative agenda, with little regard for that which the American people want and deserve. Instead, Helms sees himself as the ultimate arbiter and the decision maker not only for the poor, ignorant people who continue to elect him, but also for all the rest of us who have the sense to send someone with some ethics to Washington.

Ultimately, we all suffer from his vindictive tirades.

**MOST RECENTLY**, Helms has expressed concern over decisions by galleries to mount exhibits of works such as those by openly-gay photographer Robert Mapplethorpe (whom he attacked by pointing to the artist's recent death from complications resulting from AIDS), and a Chicago exhibit which included a work with an American flag on the floor.

It was difficult to tell which set off more sputtering from Helms and company: Mapplethorpe's hauntingly beautiful and strange photography or the much-nalined "Piss-Christ" piece they waved before the television cameras.

Helms and his narrow-minded cronies vowed to strike terror in the hearts of arts administrators by attacking the National Endowment.

Unfortunately, the Helms-introduced legislation was adopted unanimously in the Senate. Even our own Tennessee Senators, Jim Sasser and Albert Gore Jr., did nothing to try to stop the vicious North Carolinian's bigoted, dangerous foolishness. It calls for no federal funding for any art exhibit which includes works that might be offensive on moral or religious grounds. So much for the "liberal" Democratic party.

**NOT ONLY DID HELMS** seek retribution for Mapplethorpe's homoerotic photographs and the American flag display, but for any number of artworks which he finds personally offensive. In so doing, Helms has opened a Pandora's box brimming with loopholes and abusive use of power.

The issue is not, as Helms, et al, would have us believe, one of fiscal responsibility. It is, instead, one of the fundamental right of artists and others to express themselves without interference, especially from governments. Even though some of the funds for the works are government-appropriated, the Congress has no business interfering with art.

If people like Helms have their way, the entire creative arts community will be stifled and no longer will we be able to enjoy the visual and performing arts that we now do.

This is an outrage. We urge you to contact your representatives in Congress and express your anger at such repressive actions. •

## 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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**LETTERS**  
We welcome your letters. Submissions over 500 words will be considered for publication in the Soapbox space. Letters must be signed and include the writer's address and phone for verification. Names will be withheld on request. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. No defamatory material will be published.

All letters become the sole property of Pyramid Light & Power and will be assumed intended for publication unless otherwise explicitly stated.

**ARCHIVES**  
Dare is available on microfilm at the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

## SOAPBOX

*Talking about the closet*

by NANCY LYN DEFINE  
Contributing Writer

**DO ME A FAVOR.** Please. Don't pick me out of the crowd at the bar in order to subject me to a 20-minute dissertation on how you're "Really not gay, just confused."

Frankly, Mr. Macho, I don't give a damn. And stop glancing over my shoulder. I doubt very much the "homo spotter" task force is sneaking around with hidden cameras. Look, it isn't that I don't enjoy talking with new people. It's just that I don't particularly care to talk to you.

So please don't tell me how your family would just die if they even suspected you might be...well, you know.

Those of us who are openly gay don't have the slightest notion of the fears and anxieties associated with coming out to parents. We weren't born and raised in the traditional manner. We just sprang up, fully grown, in cabbage patches.

And please don't think you're complimenting me when you say I don't "look like one." I find that comment not only offensive, but incredibly stupid. Despite your misconceptions, you can't usually "spot one of us a mile away."

And this habit you have of smugly looking around the bar and picking out four or five people you don't find

attractive, then referring to them as faggots, bulldykes and disgusting queers with whom you will not be identified, is almost as repulsive as you are. They are not the reason you can't come out of the closet (although you may be a reason for them to consider going back in). Are you always this obnoxious? Or do gay atmospheres just bring out the best in you?

Look, I'm not a bad person. And I don't go out very often. So when I do, please stop telling me all about that old queen in the corner who won't stop cruising you. First of all, he's not even looking at you. He's cruising that cute guy standing a couple of feet in back of you. Actually, no offense (well, maybe a little), but I don't see one person in this whole place paying the least bit of attention to you.

But then you're "really" not gay, anyway.

And stop snickering at my button. If you haven't seen one before then you must be either illiterate or unable to afford a radio or television. If you have, and you think pink triangles are funny, maybe you should consider joining up with Lyndon LaRouche. And don't you dare cop a condescending attitude about those of us with AIDS or HIV-positive blood. Honey, you have a disease much more deadly.

While I'm at it, don't bother telling me 20 minutes into your monologue that you lied to me about your real name. I have no problem with that. I can think of lots of things to call you. And no, I certainly do not know anyone who

would be interested in being your "date" for a family wedding or the office Christmas party.

How did I know that you campaigned for Bush and Quayle? And that you're a registered Republican? Go figure.

If I hear you say, "What I do in the privacy of my bedroom is nobody's business and I don't intend on shouting it to the world," one more time, I'll seriously consider taking a picture of you and sending it to the local paper with a caption that reads, "Gay homophobe demands the right to be a homo (but only in the privacy of his own room)."

I don't understand why people in the closet always tell us about this privacy thing. What do you think we do when we're not running

around making it more difficult for people like you? Meet in a parking lot and decide which one of your bedrooms we're going to bug this week?

Trust me. We have any number of other things to worry about. So if you have to spout off about privacy, go tell a judge. Preferably one sitting on the Supreme Court. Better yet, stop by the office of any Republican Senator. Or go to Georgia. There's a man named Hardwick who would love to hear your views on the subject.

And while you're at it, you should consider writing to Virginia Apuzzo and Harvey Fierstein about the harm being done by all this openly-gay stuff. I'm sure once you explain to them that normal people would allow us to live (under certain conditions) if we just stopped being so public, they'd crawl quietly back to their closets and start writing about real issues like the terrible way the press treated Dan Quayle during the campaign and how those slanderous attempts to portray Liberace as a homosexual were really part of a communist plot to take over the world. Hell, everybody knows Raisa Gorbachev is funding ACT UP. She got the idea from Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" campaign.

**FINALLY**, there is no need for you to hide behind the dog food display if you happen to spot one of us at the grocery store. Believe me, we will not, as you so delicately put it, expose you. We are just as concerned as you that as few people as possible know that you are "really homosexual, not confused."

This may be difficult for you to comprehend, but we're a thousand times more embarrassed by you that you are by us. After all, we do have some pride.

Come to think of it, that's what this is all about. So, come on, do me a favor. Pick someone else out of the crowd or go soak your head in your beer. But whatever you do, keep your misguided opinions to yourself. If you won't help us by standing up, at least do us the favor of shutting up. •

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why people in the  
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in a parking lot and  
decide which one of  
your bedrooms we're  
going to bug this week?*



# Aloha!

## Everyone's invited to a South Sea Island Party!

Labor Day Weekend, September 1 - 4

Friday and Saturday, Sept. 1 & 2

**DANCING WITH DJ STEVE**

Free leis for everyone!

Wear your brightest Hawaiian shirt  
or your favorite grass skirt.

Sunday, Sept. 3

**SUNDAY NIGHT DINNER SPECIAL**

Egg roll, tempura shrimp, fried rice,  
Polynesian vegetables, \$3.95.

**POLYNESIAN SHOW**

10:30 & 12:30 featuring

Otila Massaro • Fetu Grabowski • Randy McDaniel

Monday, Sept. 4

**NO COVER!**

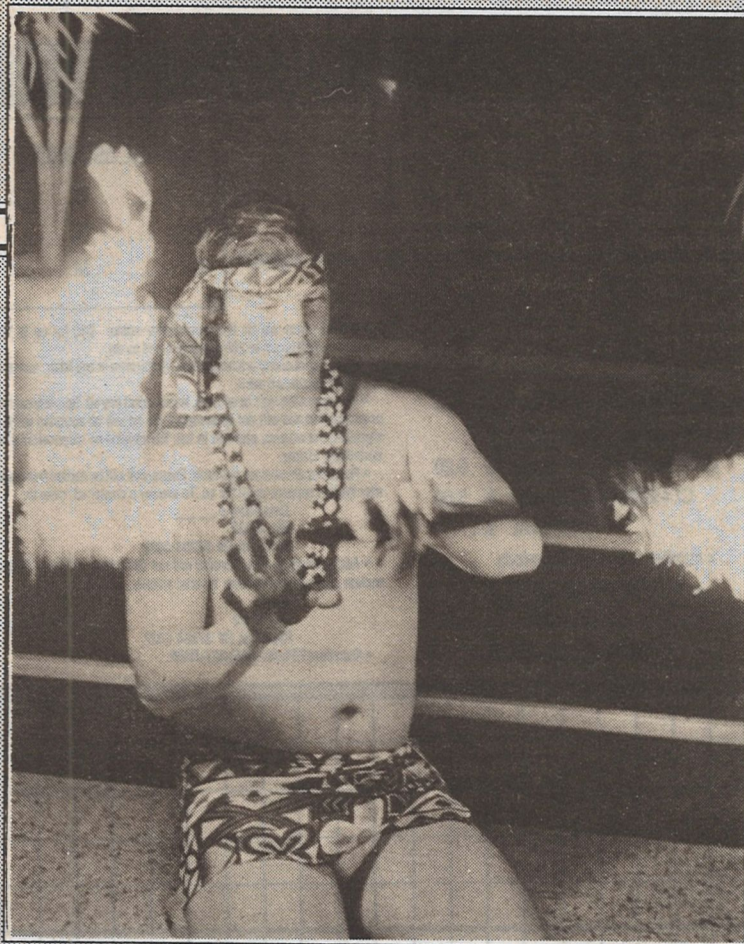
**OUTDOOR LUAU 7-9:30**

Featuring sweet and sour pork,  
pu-pu chicken with rice, South Sea vegetables  
and fresh island fruit, \$4.95.

There's a limited number of luau tickets  
available. They go on sale at 5, so be sure to get  
yours early.

**RANDY MCDANIEL ENCORE at 10**

Fire Dance • Poi Ball • Bamboo Sticks



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## M A R K E T

## Announcements

• **RELATIONSHIP STRUGGLES?** New audiotape gives support and steps to resolve conflict. Based on bestseller *LESBIAN COUPLES*. \$11.95 postpaid to Seal Press, 3131 Western, #410, Seattle, WA 98121.

• **CLEANING SERVICE** — homes, apartments, offices. Economical, reliable, thorough. References. Nashville. Mike, 615 256-5830.

• **FOR SALE:** General Electric Spacemaker III microwave oven, used only 2 months. \$95. Beautiful walnut executive desk. \$210. Nashville. 615 859-9302 after 5pm.

• Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Dare First Night Theater Awards, benefit for Nashville CARES, Sunday, September 17, at the Z. Alexander Looby Theater. For more information, phone 615 327-Dare.

• 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.

• 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 Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville. Write Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone 615 327-Dare.

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

## 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

• GWM, 29, seeks M roommate for quiet apt near Nashville airport. Perfect for airline worker or other. 615 360-9764.

## Personal

• Happy birthday to the BEST little boy! I love you no matter how old you get, just as long as you're always older than me. Love from the Younger Man.

## Q U O T E S

## Stick to your guns

"Oh, yes. They gave me a boy to play tennis with."

— President George Bush, regular guy, when asked if he met any of the Chinese people during a 1975 trip.

"Rob Lowe has finally made a movie we all want to see."

— Comedian Barry Sobel commenting on the Rob Lowe video-sex tapes scandal.

"While ignorance still reigns, little remains that is actually taboo except male homosexuality. Those accused of the practice face three years in prison for a first offense. The handful who test positive for the AIDS virus and then have sex can get eight years."

— from a *Time* magazine "Behavior" report on the new U.S.S.R.

"Shamelessness, exhibitionism, vice, cash, homosexuality have become the sad and degrading symbols of the village for which you are responsible."

— Former movie star Brigitte Bardot, known as the "sex kitten" in the 1950s and '60s, in a letter to the mayor of St. Tropez, France, complaining that her dogs are banned from beaches "infested with mediocre, dirty, ill-bred tourists." This from a woman who once co-starred with Billy Mumy.

"She has lost her head. Because we won't let her dogs relieve themselves on the beach, she calls us all kinds of names."

— Mayor Alain Spada of St. Tropez, responding to Brigitte Bardot's charges. Obviously, Brigitte's never seen Music Row.

"We certainly do not advocate that gays disappear into the woodwork. Rather, the gay community should tone down and stand up 1) by coming out of the closet and 2) by supporting a bold national media campaign that corrects old stereotypes. The public image of gays may indeed be moderated as a result of such increased visibility, since straights will then find that the vast majority of gays are as conventional as they are."

— Authors Hunter Madsen and Marshall Kirk responding (in a letter to *Time* magazine) to the "considerable anger and misunderstanding" that has resulted from the publication of their book, *After the Ball*.

"I printed a letter on homosexuality the first year that I was writing the column, and the publisher in St. Joe, Mich., let us know that he was not running that column. He printed a box on Page One saying there would be no Ann Landers column today because she's dealing with a subject that we feel is not fit for a family newspaper. Of course, everybody in town ran to buy the *Detroit Free Press* to see what it was that Ann Landers was talking about that the paper wouldn't print."

— Advice doyenne Ann Landers in a *Time* magazine interview.

"And my girlfriend Judy and me, we run around the countryside here, findin' old abandoned houses and ransackin' the cellars and attics for old books and great antique bottles and stuff like that."

— Country music superstar Dolly Parton, in an interview in the September issue of *McCall's* magazine.

"In a piece titled 'What Homosexuals Do,' the conservative Republican [California Congressman William Dannemeyer] cites sexual practices — including some involving vegetables and light bulbs — that he maintains are commonplace among gays. Dannemeyer's unorthodox entry prompted Indiana Democrat Andrew Jacobs to ask the House ethics committee to clarify standards for placing 'unspoken, not to say unspeakable, remarks in the *Congressional Record*.'"

— from *Time* magazine's Grapevine section, citing Dannemeyer's efforts to fill the *Congressional Record* with his wit and wisdom.



Singer-songwriter k.d. lang

"Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis has settled a lawsuit against his former housemate and business manager who was allegedly threatening the champion diver."

— A wire service report about Greg Louganis' personal problems. I know you are, but what am I?

"I go to Japanese restaurants because I'm learning the language. The other day I asked for an enema instead of the check. 'ConCHO' is enema; 'CONjo' is check. Thank god this particular sukiyaki joint didn't believe the customer is always right."

— Dick Cavett, waxing rhapsodic about his social life with columnist Cindy Adams.

"For all their difference of opinion, all five Coors brothers are in harmony on a couple of major points. First, none have any moral qualms about selling Coors for a living...Secondly, Joe Coors' sons are also in harmony on at least one other point: Homosexuals are an abomination in the eyes of God."

— From a September, 1988, *Los Angeles Times* story quoted in a recent issue of *Out Week*, New York's new lesbian/gay news magazine.

"I wouldn't have got this far without sticking to my guns."

— Singer-songwriter k.d. lang, currently on an eight-month worldwide tour.

"Actually, I'm a Robin fan. I'm going to see if Robin makes a comeback."

— Vice President, and regular guy, Dan Quayle, on what he hoped to see in the summer's box-office smash *Batman*.

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• Questions? Phone (615) 327-DAPE.

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