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Dare

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 39

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 5, 1989

Heart Strings makes \$70,000 in Memphis

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Close to \$70,000 in gross ticket receipts were reported by organizers of the Memphis performance of HEART STRINGS: The National Tour, during a Monday night's show at Vincent deFrank Hall of Ellis Auditorium.

Some 1,200 people attended the performance which Memphis steering committee co-chair Allen Cook termed "excellent."

"It was a wonderful show," he told *Dare* in a telephone interview Tuesday morning. "It was far better than I expected. We're talking ten costume changes here."

"I'm still filled with the energy of last night's show. I didn't get to bed until past 2 a.m., but I was up at 8 a.m., with the music still running through my head. There was so much energy in the theatre, it was unbelievable."

The Broadway-style musical revue was performed last night in Nashville's Tennessee Performing Arts Center's Polk Theatre. The Memphis and Nashville legs of the tour were the third and fourth stops, respectively, on the six-month itinerary which will take the cast on a 25,000 mile journey throughout the United States.

Larry Riley, a native Memphian now seen regularly on CBS-TV's KNOTS LANDING, participated in the show, providing the narrative thread which connects the musical numbers. Riley originated the role of Memphis in A SOLDIER'S PLAY on Broadway and later recreated that role in the film version, A SOLDIER'S STORY.

Among local groups participating in the Memphis production were the Memphis Symphony Chamber Singers, a 30-member choral group augmented by ten additional male voices, and the Angelic Voices of Faith, a black gospel group, who sang the stirring "His Eye Is On the Sparrow."

The show's most moving moment came, Cook said, when a portion of the NAMES Project Memorial AIDS Quilt was lowered from the theatre's fly-space above



Peri Jude Radecic, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Legislative Director, will visit Tennessee this weekend to discuss legislative strategies for the next decade. Radecic will address a lesbian and gay town meeting in Nashville Monday night. See story on page 5. — DARE FILE PHOTO

the stage during the performance of one song.

"At the end of the song, there was complete silence. It was as if you could feel people trying to read every panel of the Quilt," Cook said.

Monday night's performance was preceded by a Sunday brunch held at the historic Galloway Mansion. The brunch, Cook explained, was one of the few gala events to be enjoyed by cast members, since most social engagements accompanying the performance usually are scheduled for the day of the show.

"It was a beautiful day. It had rained the day before • continued on page 4

Havin' a baby?

Seminar presents alternative insemination

by MARK LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

More than 40 people, mostly women, gathered at the Vanderbilt Law School in Nashville last Thursday to find out about the benefits and risks of having children through artificial insemination.

In a seminar sponsored by the Vanderbilt Gay and Lesbian Law Students Association, four specialists discussed various aspects of artificial insemination, including psychosocial, medical and legal aspects.

Deane Oliva, a clinical psychologist and a parent, discussed the "psychosocial aspects of parenthood." She said the most important thing in choosing to have a child was to think about discussing everything thoroughly before making any decisions.

"The thing that you've got to do is talk, talk, talk," said Oliva. "We have at first a tendency to give superficial answers, the answers we think we should give."

Discussion is especially important for lesbians and gay men, because choosing to have children is an even more important decision in their lives than it is for heterosexual couples.

"Choosing parenthood is for gay men and lesbians a truly active choice," she said.

Before choosing to have a child,

potential parents should think about the impact of a child on their lives. "That child is going to be totally dependent on you for care," Oliva said.

"Many new parents tend to romanticize about staying home with the child and being the perfect parent," Oliva said, but a child can greatly restrict parents' social and personal lives. "Children are constant. I mean they don't go home. They are always there, when you want them and when you don't want them."

Couples who want to raise a child together should be especially careful to think about how they will divide responsibilities, including legal ones, and what will happen to the child if they break up or if one of them dies. "Before you inseminate, make these plans," she said.

Issues to discuss include religion, discipline, education, and seemingly less important matters, such as how to name or dress a child. Yet another issue is what to tell people, including the child, when they ask who the child's parents are.

"If you are a lesbian, what do you tell the child when he asks who his father is?" asked Oliva. "Some women choose to make up a cover story" to tell to friends and relatives who ask how they got pregnant.

Gay parents must also consider • continued on page 4

Gore and Sasser vote for "no promo homo"

Meanwhile, Tennessee House delegation splits on arts funding bill

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Both Tennessee senators, Al Gore and Jim Sasser, last Thursday voted in favor of the so-called "no promo homo" amendment of the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill, introduced by noted anti-gay Senator Gordon Humphrey (R-N.H.), and which passed the Senate by an 85-13 vote.

The amendment calls for no allocation of Federal funds for any educational materials directed at school children which identifies homosexuality as a natural, healthy, normal lifestyle.

Tacie Dejanikus, national field manager for the Washington-based

Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the nation's largest lesbian and gay political action committee, asked "What happened to Senator Gore?"

"Senator Gore usually is fairly decent on these issues. But this time he didn't vote with us," Dejanikus told *Dare* Monday. "What happened?"

Dejanikus said that phone calls from Gore and Sasser's Tennessee constituents could help change their votes on the appropriations bill. She said efforts would continue to kill the bill while it is still being considered in committee.

Efforts to contact both Gore and Sasser were unsuccessful. Press

representatives for both senators were "in a meeting" according to office receptionists at the Washington offices of both Gore and Sasser.

Gore press aide Laura Travers did return one phone call but apparently had not been briefed on the Humphrey amendment vote.

"I'll see what I can find out and call you back," she said.

Unfortunately, Travers failed to call with more information or with any comments from Gore.

Meanwhile, in the House of Representatives, four members of Tennessee's congressional delegation voted against an amendment introduced in the senate by Senator • continued on page 4

I N S I D E

Dare this week

Suicide is killing
our children.
Centerpiece, page 6.



Two uneven new
anthologies of lesbian fiction.
Pages, page 9.

Yes, fans, even more pearls of
wisdom from (drumroll) Zsa Zsa!
Quotes, page 12.



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D A T E S

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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 615 595-8686.
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.

Murfreesboro

Thursdays
MTSU Lambda Support group for lesbian and gay
students, faculty, staff and alumni of Middle Tennessee
State University. 7:30pm. Info 615 352-7039

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 615 322-2251.
Al-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 / 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.

Big events



Sunday, October 1

Volunteer Training Buddy Training: AIDS 102.
Sponsored by aids Response Knoxville (aRK). At 1320
N. Central, Knoxville. \$15 registration fee, but other ar-
rangements can be made. Space limited. 9am-4pm. Info
and registration, 615 523-AIDS.

Brunch Tennessee Legislative Strategy in the Nineties.
Meet Peri Jude Radecic, legislative director for National
Gay & Lesbian Task Force, to informally discuss ways to
approach lesbian and gay legislative strategy in Tennes-
see. At Bristol Bar & Grille, Church Street Centre,
Nashville. Meeting free, brunch from menu. 11:30am.
Info Abby Rubenfeld 615 269-6778

Monday, October 2

Town Meeting Gay and Lesbian Town Meeting.
Featuring Peri Jude Radecic, legislative director for
National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, who will discuss
ways to approach lesbian and gay legislative strategy in
Tennessee. Sponsored by Tennessee Gay and Lesbian
Alliance. At East Park Community Center, 700 Wood-
land, Nashville. Free. 7-10pm. Info 615 297-0008.
Consciousness Raising Must You Live Together to
Have a Fulfilling Relationship with Your Lover? Spon-
sored by Black and White Men Together / Memphis.
7:30pm. Info 901 726-1461.

Friday, October 6

Discussion Steve Pieters will speak about living with
AIDS and about alternative treatments. Metropolitan
Community Church, 131 15th Ave North, Nashville.
Free. 7pm. Info 615 320-0288.

Sunday, October 8

Feminist Book Circle Discussion of *Loving Her*, by
Ann Allen Shockley. At Unitarian Universalist Church,
1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. Free. 5-7pm.

Friday, October 13

Gay Prom Benefit for Metropolitan Community
Church/Nashville and Nashville CARES. \$10 per per-
son, \$15 per couple. At Warehouse 28, 2529 Franklin
Rd, Nashville. 7pm. Info 615 297-4085.

Your nonprofit event can be listed free in Dates. Write to
Date, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422, or phone 615
327-Date 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

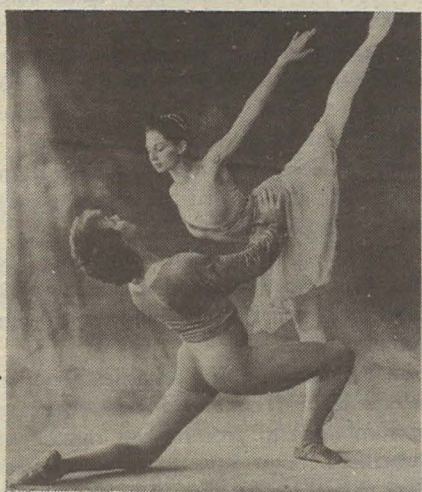
Feminist poet to read her work

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Judith Ortiz Cofer, poet and author of the novel *THE LINE OF THE SUN*, will read from her works at Western Kentucky University's Ivan Wilson Center at 4:15 p.m. on Oct. 30.

The reading is being hosted by the university's Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies.

Ortiz Cofer, a native of Puerto Rico, teaches English at Macon College in Georgia and has a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. She has written several collections of poetry, including *TERMS OF SURVIVAL* and *REACHING FOR THE MAINLAND*.

For more information, contact Luz Maria Umpierre at (502) 745-5900. •



Sylvan La Pointe and Alyce Andrews will dance Edward Myers' *HOLBERG SUITE*, one of 3 works in Nashville Ballet's fall series, which will be performed Friday and Saturday, Oct. 6 and 7. — DARE FILE PHOTO

Gay Yalies confer

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — The Lesbian and Gay Studies Center at Yale will hold its third annual conference, "Outside/Inside," at the Yale Law School on Oct. 27-29. The conference will feature lectures, workshops and panel discussion involving scholars, artists and activists.

The panels and papers to be presented include "Lesbian Philosophy" and "Sexuality and Material Life." Several workshops on legal concerns will be held on Sunday.

For more details about conference activities or about the Center itself, contact Steven Pierce at (203) 772-1742. •

aRK plans seminar

KNOXVILLE — aids Response Knoxville will be holding its third quarterly seminar, "Buddy Training: AIDS 102" from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 1, at the aRK office at 1320 N. Central Ave.

The program is designed to prepare people to be supportive friends and resource persons to someone with AIDS. Anyone wishing to participate in the aRK buddies program must take both this seminar and the group's "AIDS

101" seminar, but the classes may be taken in any order.

The training session is limited to twenty people, but both programs are offered four times a year.

A \$15 registration fee covers both programs, and special arrangements for payment can be made if finances are a problem.

For more information contact aRK at (615) 523-AIDS or P.O. Box 3932, Knoxville, TN 37927. •

Christian church gay group formed

INDIANAPOLIS — Lesbians and gay men who are affirming members or clergy of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada created a formal organization which officially participated in the church's biennial General Assembly this summer.

The group, known as the Gay, Lesbian and Affirming Disciples Alliance (GLAD Alliance), is the outgrowth of clandestine meetings which began at the 1979 General Assembly and continued through 1987.

The Alliance operated a booth at the assembly, where they passed out literature and buttons with the church's symbol superimposed over a pink triangle. The booth was next to one operated by the Open and Affirming Congregations of the denomination, which have accepted lesbians and gay men as full members of the church.

The group hosted a hospitality suite at a nearby hotel and carried two banners in an Assembly parade through downtown Indianapolis. One banner was a pink triangle and the other said "The body of Christ is living with AIDS." •

Justice appeals free speech ruling

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has appealed a federal district court ruling that struck down an anti-pornography law giving the federal government the right to censor erotica and seize the assets of stores, publishers and libraries, according to the *GUIDE TO THE GAY NORTHEAST*.

Judge George Revercomb's decision last May voided provisions of the Child Protection and Enforcement Act of 1988 that required extensive record-keeping by producers of erotica and allowed officials to seize assets of suspected violators before the material was determined to be illegal.

According to the act, producers of photographic erotica must keep records to prove that none of the individuals involved in the production are minors, and those selling or advertising the materials must verify that the records are being kept.

"The law is extremely dangerous," said Wayne Curtis, production editor at Alyson Publications, a Boston-based gay publishing company. "Because of the racketeering provisions, anyone convicted could lose their entire business because they're missing proof of age for one photo." •

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Peri Jude Radecic
Legislative Director,
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
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of the Nashville
lesbian and gay community,
including Diana Hutton,
a representative of the
Nashville Women's Alliance,
a member of the gay/lesbian recovery
community, and a member of the
black gay and lesbian community.

HERE YE!

Gay and Lesbian
Town Meeting
Monday, October 2nd
7 pm until 10 pm
East Park
Community Center
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Club Room One
For more information,
phone (615) 386-9211.

Sponsored by
the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian
Alliance

...Memphis show raises \$70K

• continued from page 1

and it rained the day after, but on the day of the brunch there wasn't a cloud in the sky. It was 68 degrees and sunny. The weather could not have been more beautiful," he said.

Cook said that HEART STRINGS: The National Tour helped to recruit a number of people as AIDS volunteers and activists who heretofore had not been involved.

"I've been working in AIDS for a long time, but there were people involved in making HEART STRINGS a success who had not been

involved before," Cook explained. "I just hope they will continue to work."

Memphis agencies benefitting from the HEART STRINGS performance were the Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC) and the Memphis AIDS Coalition. Some 85% of funds raised by the musical revue will go to local AIDS services organizations.

Originally staged in Atlanta, the national tour is underwritten by the Design Industries Foundation for AIDS (DIFFA) and is the only national fund-raising effort of its kind. •

...alternative insemination

• continued from page 1

how to teach children to be proud of their parents' lifestyle, especially if the parent is closeted. "To what extent is it possible to teach pride and be in the closet?"

"These are not things that come up once in a lifetime," said Oliva. "It's so much easier when you feel comfortable with the responses." Moreover, parents should understand that they may have to change their responses over time.

"No matter what you say at age two or three, it's a whole different ballgame at age 17," she explained.

The next speaker, Linda Johnson, a registered nurse, reminded the audience that even after all of these issues have been addressed, the process of having a child by artificial insemination has only just begun. There are also a number of medical questions to face.

First, the parent-to-be must decide between self-insemination and being inseminated by a physician. "If you have a physician, it's costly, but you have the advantage of knowing all the risks," Johnson said.

Even with a physician, a woman being inseminated should be sure that tests are done to protect both her health and the child's. "Less than half of physicians even do an AIDS test [sic] on donated sperm" and 25 percent do not test for any sexually transmitted diseases, she said. "It's really important for you to ask questions."

Many doctors are also unwilling to release information about the genetic history of a donor, because they believe it is a violation of the donor's confidentiality. Because of this reluctance, some women choose a donor that they know, so that they can ask whether his family has a history of genetic conditions such as epilepsy.

Insemination can be quite expensive. Aside from the costs of screening tests and childbirth itself, a single vial of frozen sperm can cost from \$65 to \$100 plus shipping.

Potential parents should also realize that it may take several tries before an insemination is successful. It is common for five to eight inseminations to be attempted before a pregnancy occurs.

When a pregnancy does occur, 30 percent of women using artificial insemination have spontaneous abortions. "It's very frustrating," said Johnson. "You have to keep trying."

The last two speakers, Abby Rubinfeld and Ellen Clayton, spoke on the legal issues surrounding alternative insemination.

Rubinfeld, an attorney with a family law practice in Nashville, said the primary legal decisions were whether or not to use a physician and whether or not to know the donor.

In Tennessee, there is no legal difference whether a physician is involved or not, Rubinfeld said, but added, "In some states it makes a big difference." Clayton, a Vanderbilt law professor, also emphasized that laws vary greatly from state to state. For example, she noted that it is illegal in Georgia to inseminate oneself without the aid of a physician.

Rubinfeld said that it does make a great deal of difference whether or not a parent knows who the donor is.

"There's a tremendous difference," she said. "The more contact a donor has with a child, the greater the bond between the donor and the child."

In Tennessee, if an unmarried woman is inseminated, "The law doesn't make any presumptions to protect your rights," said Rubinfeld. "You have to take affirmative steps to protect your rights."

She emphasized the importance of having written agreements among all the parties involved.

"You need to really trust this man that is going to be involved in your child's life, and your life, and your lover's," she said. "If you don't have an agreement, you're really going to be out of luck."

Rubinfeld said any agreement should include provisions for the mediation of disputes. "You don't want to go to court with these disputes if you can help it."

Clayton also recommended mediation, and said the courts were generally unfavorable toward agreements involving alternative insemination or surrogate parenting. Although an agreement is needed in order to have some protection, "I wouldn't bet a nickel on getting it enforced in Tennessee," said Clayton.

Finally, Clayton said that if a woman applies for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), she must prove that she has sought to find the father and make him pay child support, even if she has made an agreement not to do so.

"Any agreement you make is simply irrelevant" in such a situation, she said. •

...Senate: "No promo homo"

• continued from page 1

Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) calling for guidelines for determining which projects can receive grants from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Democrats Bob Clement, Bart Gordon, Jim

Cooper and Harold Ford voted against the Helms amendment — which was defeated in the House — while Democrats Marilyn Lloyd and John Tanner voted for Helms' measure. Republicans Don Sundquist, Jimmy Quillen and John Duncan all voted for the measure. •

Nashville Church plans gay prom

by MARK LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

A "Gay Prom" to benefit Metropolitan Community Church / Nashville (MCC) and Nashville CARES has been set for Friday, Oct. 13.

Besides benefiting charity, the event will also give lesbians and gay men who did not attend the prom in high school a chance to experience the occasion, according to Dwayne Bratton, one of the co-ordinators of the event.

"A lot of people just didn't go the prom [in high school] because they just didn't have a date or they didn't want to be hypocritical about their preferences," said Bratton.

However, the prom is not just for those who didn't go in high school. "It's for everybody," Bratton said.

Tim Musiol, who is organizing the event with Bratton, said American Tuxedo Rental on Nolensville Road is offering discount tuxedo rentals for those who want to go in formal prom attire. In keeping with the organizers'

desire to make the event open to the entire community, however, formal dress is not required.

"We want both the guys and the girls to feel comfortable. If you like to wear leather, and you want to wear leather with a bow tie, that's fine," said Bratton. "If you want to show up in drag, that's fine."

Musiol added, though, that if most people dress formally, "It would be more fun, in keeping with the prom idea."

Entertainment for the evening will be provided by a band and a deejay. Bratton said the music will consist of "oldies, but goodies" to appeal to people from a variety of age groups.

Bratton said he and Musiol hope the prom will become an annual event, possibly even with "prom queens and the court and the whole nine yards," but said that such possibilities were "off in the future."

The prom will be held at Warehouse 28, 2529 Franklin Road, Nashville, starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$15 per couple at the door. •

T-GALA sets Town Meeting

from STAFF REPORTS

Nashville's lesbian and gay community will hold a Town Meeting Monday night, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. at the East Park Community Center's Club Room One at 700 Woodland Street.

Peri Jude Radecic, legislative director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force will discuss legislative strategies for the '90s with community leaders. Others taking part in the meeting will be female impersonator Diana Hutton; and representatives of the Nashville

Women's Alliance, and the lesbian/gay recovery and black lesbian/gay communities.

The purpose of the meeting, sponsored by the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA), is to "bring together diverse elements of our community to strengthen coalitions among groups, organizations and businesses," according to T-GALA's Ann Taylor.

The event, free and open to the public, will be followed by an informal social gathering.

For information, call (615) 386-9211. •

Full Quilt shown for last time

from STAFF REPORTS

Thousands of people will gather in Washington, D.C., next Friday, October 6, to witness the unfolding of the NAMES Project Quilt, the internationally-known memorial to the thousands who have died of AIDS.

The three-day display of the Quilt will serve as a focal point for a full weekend of AIDS awareness, education and fundraising events designed to focus national and international attention on the urgent need for a compassionate response to the AIDS epidemic.

Although sections of the Quilt will continue to tour and to be displayed, this will be the last display of the Quilt in its entirety.

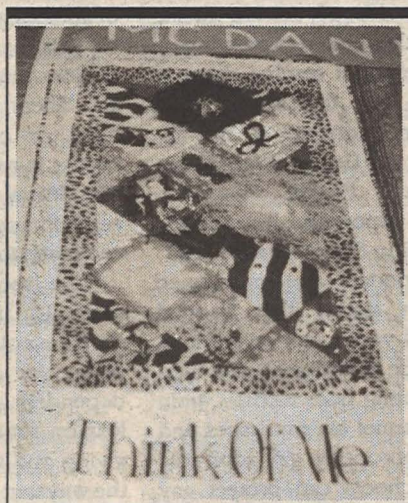
All Quilt panels received by the NAMES Project by August 1 will be included in the Washington display.

Events scheduled during the weekend:

- Friday, October 6
- 10 a.m. Unfolding ceremony (Reading of the NAMES 10 a.m.-6 p.m.)

- 6 p.m. Refolding
- 7:30 p.m. "AIDS & Politics: Transformations of Our Movement."

A Town Meeting on the impact of AIDS on the lesbian and gay civil rights movement. Sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.



A panel from the NAMES Project National AIDS Quilt. — DARE STAFF PHOTO

8 p.m. "Life of the Party," a play by Theatre Rhinoceros, benefitting the NAMES Project and local AIDS organizations. Kennedy Center. Tickets \$75.

- Saturday, October 7
- 10 a.m. Unfolding of the Quilt (Reading of the NAMES continues 10 a.m.-6 p.m.)
- 10 a.m. National March for Housing Now. Contact: Housing Now! (202) 347-2405.

- 6 p.m. Refolding
- 6:30 p.m. Candlelight March Against AIDS from the Ellipse to the Lincoln Memorial.

- 8 p.m. Candlelight Program at the Lincoln Memorial.

- Sunday, October 8
- 10 a.m. Unfolding.
- 2 p.m. Quilt reunions. Gather at individual panels to remember loved ones.

- 6 p.m. Refolding
- 7 p.m. Dancing for Freedom. Community dance, sponsored by the National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) and the NAMES Project. Pension Building. Tickets \$25 in advance; \$35 at the door. Contact NGRA: (213) 650-6200.

- Monday, October 9
- 10 a.m. "Congressional Update: Status of Federal AIDS Legislation." Sponsored by NGLTF and Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF). •

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cover
to cover.

DARE

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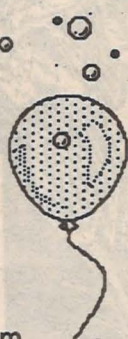
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IN AUGUST, a four volume report was released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Task Force on Youth Suicide that acknowledged that gay and lesbian youth are at an increased risk for suicide.

by **LAURA TEK**
Staff Writer

The report presented evidence that suicide is the leading cause of death among gay, lesbian and transsexual youth and that these youth may comprise close to 30 percent of the completed suicides annually.

In a move called bold by gay and lesbian activists, the report called for "an end to discrimination against youths on the basis of such characteristics as disability, sexual orientation and financial status."

It also identified risk factors for youth suicide, reviewed prevention and intervention activities, and defines strategies for the future.

"According to this research the increased risk of suicide facing these youth is linked to growing up in a society that teaches them to hide and hate themselves," said Kevin Berrill, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Anti-violence Project. "We welcome this report and hope it will lead to action that will save lives."

The report also mentioned prevention stating that "mental health and youth service agencies can provide acceptance and support for young homosexuals, train their personnel on gay issues and provide appropriate gay adult role models; schools can protect gay youth from abuse from their peers and provide accurate information about homosexuality in health curricula; families should accept their child and work toward educating

themselves about the development and nature of homosexuality."

Jim Siebold is a clinical psychologist in Nashville. He has read about this problem, heard the statistics and, having encountered quite a number of gay adolescents throughout the years, discusses the difficulties that gay adolescents and adolescents in general face today.

"There is no transition like adolescence. And today in our culture, adolescence is getting longer ranging from age 13 to 21. In that eight year segment you're faced with the major task of becoming autonomous," Siebold said. "You want to become free standing to make your own choices and to become your own person. You're coming out of childhood where all of your choices were made for you."

"In an effort to accomplish this many adolescents become rebellious. They dress in weird ways and do funny things. These are all efforts to define themselves as free of adult control."

Siebold says in order to attain the main goal, becoming an adult, one must first reach two sub-goals, both of which are very relevant to being gay.

"The first sub-goal is identity formation. The adolescent years are the time in which you need to define who you are, both for yourself and for other people," Siebold said. "You'll have to make many choices, for example, what friends you will make, what occupational goals you have, etc. 'Choices' is a big theme."

"We all have to make these kinds of choices in order to form an identity. It's then a collection of those choices that will define who you are. There are some people who don't or can't do this. They're caught in role confusion. They just don't know who they are. You must reach this sub-goal first before you can reach the second sub-goal."

"The second sub-goal is intimacy. Up until adolescence, children are not in relationships as one person or another. They're very dependent and they cling to and lean on but they're not responsibly giving and taking in relationships the way that many adults do. Learning how to get close to people, being able to be real to another person, exposing yourself and allowing someone to lean on you you lean on them, in a balanced kind of

C E N T E R P I E C E

Our children are dying

way, is intimacy. This is a great task for adolescents. Physical sex is a big part of this also, a process that is aided by the hormonal changes in adolescents. But sex is only one part of getting intimate with people.

"For gay and lesbian adolescents, because of their minority status, reaching these two sub-goals is a lot harder and more challenging than it is for their heterosexual counterparts."

Siebold likens the difficult transitions of adolescence to a giant board game.

"You have childhood at one end and adulthood at the other. In between are all these twists and turns and choice points," Siebold suggested. "If you make a wrong choice, you're in a hole for a while. We're all on this board game. We all try to figure out which way to go. Some people can do it easier, some cannot."

And this board game has been complicated by the fact that adolescence today, and society in general, is much more difficult than it was in the past.

"Back 50 years ago," Siebold said. "It was easier to be an adolescent. It was a far simpler board game then because it had fewer routes. Things then were more clearly understood, like how and what you were supposed to be, particularly if you were in a rural environment. If you were male, you had your father as a role model. Females had their mothers. Back then it was harder to be an individual, but in terms of getting from one end of the board to the other, it was less difficult."

"Today, it's immensely complex to be an adolescent. For example, today, children aren't being parented as much as they were. Just the physical presence of the parent, the time a child spends with their parents during their childhood years is less now than it was before. And there are many reasons for this. People used to work more at home than they do now. Today parents are just generally less present than they were, so children today have less structure than they did, less direction from the parents on where to go and what to do."

Siebold notes that many psychological complications result from

this.

"One complication is that it affects the adolescent's self-esteem. It makes it harder for them to feel secure about themselves and harder for them to trust. The world today, in general, is less trustable so all people, not just adolescents, are feeling more isolated," Siebold said.

"Another complication is one mentioned earlier, that adolescence is being extended. More and more people are going into the school systems and colleges. What are you in college, but just an extended adolescent because you're not out until you're 22. Others remain at home. In the past, when you reached 18, you got married and your childhood was over. Or you were working, or both, and you didn't go to college," Siebold continued. "You probably only finished high school. But you had crossed the line, you reached the other side of the game board, it was pretty clear, you were now an adult. Today, it's much more blurry where that line is and as a consequence you remain longer in adolescence."

Drugs, career choices and sex are other major hurdles which must be overcome by adolescents on that rocky road to adulthood.

"Sex, a major complication, is an activity that is occurring today at a much earlier age than it did before," Siebold said.

Siebold says there are three major holes on the board game through which the adolescent can fall:

"Number one is the adolescent's inability to cope. He's got too many choices and too little support. This group is the most likely to attempt suicide. However, I believe there are very few kids who do things with the idea of being dead. I don't believe that's their motive. I think they just want to make a loud statement of 'I can't do this.'"

"Number two is regression, adolescents who remain children. They don't even want to go out on the board. They're a baby in an adolescent's body. They're very needy. They don't know the correct way to get the things they want so they throw tantrums. These are the delinquent kids. That can't delay gratification, they want these things right away, so they won't follow the rules. These are the ones most likely to attempt suicide for the effect."

"And number three is isolation,

the kids who hand out by themselves and are very lonely. Or kids who do, physically, hang out with others but rely only on themselves. They do go to school and somewhat succeed, and because of this they're harder to pick out. But they won't be able to form relationships. They're shallow, hostile, on guard and they can't or won't reveal themselves to other people."

"So to be a gay adolescent, or for any adolescent who is not white, male, middle class, straight and able-bodied, these traps are much bigger. The choices are more complex and proportionately more difficult."

Siebold points out that one of the advantages that straight teenagers have over gay and lesbian teenagers is the availability of role models.

"There's too few gay and lesbian people pointing to them saying this is the way to go. Gay adolescents look around and see the gay culture, and being what it is, especially in the south, that there just aren't people for them to look up to," Siebold said.

"There's no one to help them figure out who they are and how they're supposed to be. So as a result, homophobia will reign and reside in these kids as they begin to discover and then fear their different sexual orientation."

"So gay adolescents feel more shame than straight adolescents. And this in turn makes their achievement of intimacy much harder because it'll be harder for them to find somebody else like themselves to get close to. This is already a big problem for heterosexuals, so you can imagine what it would be like for gay adolescents, as well as for all gays and lesbians because their choices are simply fewer."

"And, of course, everything that they've ever seen about intimacy has all been heterosexual. So how they do it, and who they're supposed to do it with, is unclear."

Siebold said that, in general, it should be acknowledged that we — society, both gay and straight — are behind in helping all adolescents — both gay and straight.

"In Nashville, within the last five

years, there have been three different adolescent psychiatric facilities set up. This is a very dramatic turn. There are very good programs. However, there are very extreme programs. There should be more in-between the problem-occurring and getting-sent-to-a-psychiatric facility. We're not doing that," Siebold said.

In fact, studies released earlier this week indicate that Tennessee parents are more likely to institutionalize their problem teenagers than are parents in 48 other states. Only parents in Wyoming are more likely to react in that manner than Tennesseans.

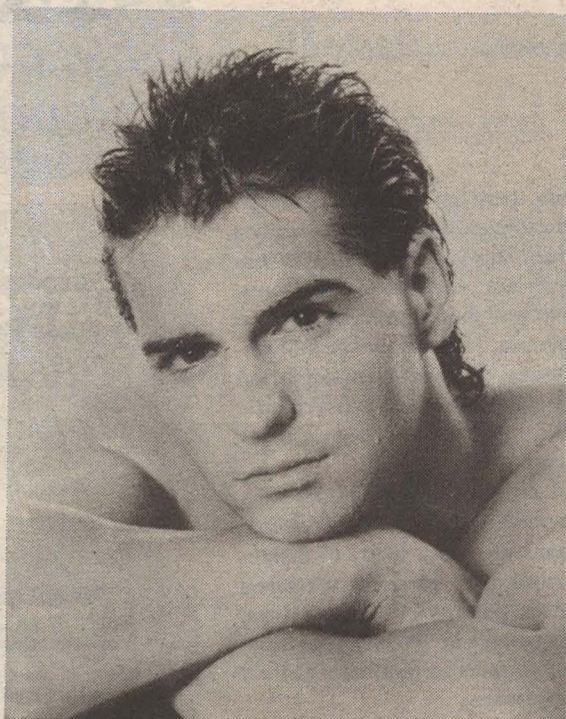
What is Siebold's prescription for the plight of gay and lesbian teenagers?

"Education," he says succinctly. "I think that if there were some magical way to identify in childhood the kids who were highly likely to become gay, and I think that is true that among many there are very early indications that their sexual choices are going to be different, and inform the parents that, 'hey, you have a special kid, get ready for your special adolescent,' that would be ideal."

"I know that won't come to pass any time soon, but that's the kind of model that we should have in our minds." •



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CURTAINS

On the boards

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

MID-SOUTH THEATRES will continue the 1989-90 season with a number of productions set to open during the coming weeks.

Nashville Public Theatre premiered its production of the Molly Newman-Barbara Damashek musical *QUILTERS* last night at the Z. Alexander Looby Theatre.

QUILTERS is based on oral histories of Colorado women and their quilts. It began as a monologue by actress-writer Molly Newman for the Denver Center Theatre. The play focuses on a mother figure who is stitching a legacy quilt for her six daughters. Throughout the show, the themes contained in each block of the quilt are transformed into words and action through song, dance and stories expressing the joy and sorrow, crisis and celebration of frontier life.

QUILTERS will run through October 15 and tickets are \$10, which may be purchased at the door or at CentraTik locations. More information is available by calling (615) 383-8861. The Looby Theatre is located at 2301 Metro Center Boulevard.

Opening at Memphis' Circuit Playhouse last night was Terrence McNally's *FRANKIE AND JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE*.

The off-Broadway hit was called "a very sweet, extraordinarily funny romantic comedy" by *THE NEW YORK POST*. In this modern love story, Johnny is a short-order cook who longs to turn a one-night-stand into something more permanent. Frankie, a waitress, is more wary, having been bruised by past disappointments.

FRANKIE AND JOHNNY runs through October 28. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$6 for students and senior citizens and may be reserved by calling (901) 726-4656.

Circuit Playhouse is located at 1705 Poplar Avenue in Memphis.

Actors' Playhouse of Nashville, Inc., winner of four *Dare* First Night Theatre Awards for the 1988-89 season, continues the current season with the premiere tonight of Christopher Durang's *THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSE*.

The late-night show, with a 10:30 p.m. curtain, will continue on Friday and Saturday nights through October 21.

A *COUPLE WHITE CHICKS SITTING AROUND TALKING*, the Actors' Playhouse mainstage production, will open next Thursday, October 5 and continue through October 21. Curtain is at 8 p.m. for the Thursday, Friday and Saturday night performances. Call (615) 327-0049 for details.

Actors' Playhouse is located at 2318 West End Avenue in Nashville.

Actors' Playhouse will premiere the legend of *THE BELL WITCH* for an October 26-November 4 run.

The musical classic, *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF*, opens at Chaffin's Barn in Nashville on Tuesday, October 3, running Tuesday through Saturday until November 4.

A small peasant town in tsarist Russia provides the settings for the timeless musical about Tevye, a dairyman, and his family. Michael Edwards stars as Tevye, with Rona Carter as his wife, Golde, and Barbara Laifer,

Lari White and Sondra Morton as their daughters. Liz Boswell, the show's musical director, will play the role of Yente, the Matchmaker, with Mark Delabarre as Motel, the tailor; Chris Harrod as Perchik; and John Alan Wilson as Fyedka.

Chaffin's Barn, winner of a *Dare* First Night Theatre Award, features an all-you-can-eat buffet served from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and the show begins at 8. Adult admission is \$24. Call (615) 646-9977 for reservations and more information.

Memphis' Playhouse on the Square will open *THE BOYS NEXT DOOR* on Thursday, October 6.

The comedy/drama was originally produced at the McCarter Theatre Company in Princeton, New Jersey under the title of *DAMAGED HEARTS, BROKEN FLOWERS*. Written by Tom Griffin, *THE BOYS NEXT DOOR* tells the story of four retarded men living together as outpatients.

Director Ken Zimmerman enlisted the help of area agencies, such as the Mental Health Society of Memphis and Shelby County, Shelby Residential and Vocational Services and Shelter Occupational Shop as consultants to guard against stereotypical portrayals of the characters.

The show runs through November 5. Reservations and information are available by calling (901) 726-4656. Playhouse on the Square is located at 51 South Cooper in Overton Square.

Opening October 6 at Chaffin's Barn second stage, Backstage at the Barn, is the Rave Revues production of *LULLABY OF BROADWAY*, a musical revue of recent Broadway songs.

The setting is the final dress rehearsal of a Broadway revue during which everything that can go wrong does go wrong. The result? An evening of hilarious comedy and great music, according to Michael Bouson and Katie Gladfelter, artistic directors of Rave Revues.

The show runs Friday and Saturday nights through November 4. Tickets are \$10. For reservations, call (615) 646-9977.

Tickets went on sell Monday for Tennessee Repertory Theatre's production of *ROMEO AND JULIET*, the once-in-a-lifetime story which has captivated and enthralled audiences for the last 400 years.

TRT's production of the Shakespeare classic, which follows the professional troupe's very successful season-opening production of *AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'*, will open on October 26 in the 1000-seat Polk Theatre of Nashville's Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC), and run for 11 performances through November 12.

Winner of three First Night Theatre Awards for the 1988-89 season, TRT's production of *ROMEO AND JULIET* follows the TRT tradition of presenting Shakespeare for contemporary audiences.

Ticket prices for *ROMEO AND JULIET* range from \$8-\$16.50 and are on sale at all CentraTik and Ticketmaster outlets. Tickets can also be reserved over the telephone by calling (615) 320-7171. •

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PAGES

Uneven collections

IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT: AN ANTHOLOGY OF LESBIAN WRITERS. Edited by Carolyn Weathers and Jenny Wrenn.

Los Angeles: Clothespin Fever Press, 1989. 216 pages, \$9.95 paper.

LESBIAN LOVE STORIES. Edited by Irene Zahava. Freedom, CA: The Crossing Press, 1989. 328 pages, \$9.95 paper.

reviewed by **SHERRE DRYDEN**

Book Editor

THE PROBLEM WITH anthologies is unevenness.

Even when all writers touching on all subjects are considered for inclusion, some selections are bound to be better written than others, more daring than others, more to one or another reader's taste than others. When the pool of writers and subjects is narrowed by the restriction of the word lesbian, the problem of unevenness is exacerbated.

LESBIAN LOVE STORIES includes selections by many of the big names in lesbian fiction — Becky Birtha, Te Corinne, Lesléa Newman, Jane Rule, Ann Allen Shockley, Barbara Wilson — as well as work by less prominent writers and women more well known for their non-fiction — Gloria Anzaldúa, Kim Chernin, Sally Miller Gearhart, Wanda Honn and Shelly Rafferty. As diverse as these women are — only lesbianism and close ties to feminist/alternative presses seem to connect the biographies that conclude the volume — several strains repeat, with varied effectiveness, throughout the collection. This repetition detracts from even the best of the stories, particularly if the author has the misfortune of a name in the second half of the alphabet or a reader who plows his or her way through from Anzaldúa to Wilson.

Most obvious is the authors' insistence on using straightforward, chronological narrative, either in present tense or told as the reminiscences of a present narrator, to tell a story. The prevalence of this style may be a reflection of one of Jan Clausen's characteristics of feminist writing: that it be accessible. There will be little doubt in any reader's mind what takes place in these stories. Language is plain and direct. There is little need for explication or exploration. Two women meet, fall in love or don't fall in love, make a life together or don't, die knowing one another's love or drift apart or run away. It is puzzling (and amusing) that characters and events as disparate as Joan Nestle's bluntly explicit butch/femme couple ("Sometimes she lies in bed wearing her cock under the covers.") in "My Woman Poppa" and Lesléa Newman's giggly romantics Chelsea and Jessie in "The Dating Game" are presented with such similarity.

Also repeated throughout LESBIAN LOVE STORIES with annoying frequency are references to lesbian gender roles, with a particular preoccupation with "butchness." Antoinette Azolakov's Dandy is a butch who gives herself crew cuts and wears jockey shorts but cannot admit her (femme) need for physical

contact. Becky Birtha's Jinx wears tailor-made suits and Stetson hats; her lover Gracie sews the white silk dress she wears with pearls and long gloves. Even Lesléa Newman's Chelsea thinks "I just love it when a tough butch blushes like that." Perhaps "butch" is just shorthand, a convenient term for conveying immediately a certain type or a certain look to an informed audience. But the type is a stereotype and this use of stereotypes in place of character development is a flaw that runs throughout these stories, and seems indicative of a larger problem with lesbian fiction in general.

The stories that avoid these problems are the best, and most memorable; stories like Jess Wells' "Two Willow Chairs" and "Tommy," an excerpt from Elsa Gidlow's autobiography, *ELSA: I COME WITH MY SONGS*. Gloria Anzaldúa's brief "Life Line" is beautifully written, erotic and sad. Jane Rule's "A

Perfectly Nice Man" is at least different, slightly mysterious, but unfortunately Rule does not quite bring it off.

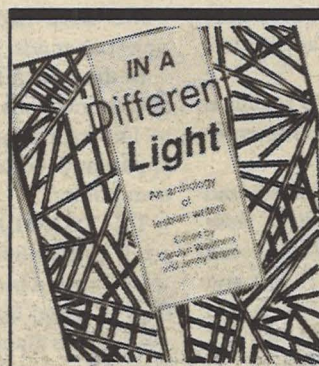
THE WRITERS included in *IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT* are slightly less conventional, less tied to traditional narrative and consequently often more interesting than the writers included in *LESBIAN LOVE STORIES*. They are also on the whole considerably less "famous" and the rough

edges of work by new writers gives *IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT* the expectant feel of a collection of works in progress.

Sometimes the willingness of these writers to take risks results in particularly good work, like Jess Wells' strange "Aqua" and Louise Moore's "Mrs. McKinnis Thinks It's Spring" and "Mrs. McKinnis In Her Garden." Other times, though, the result is silliness like Nancy Tyler Glenn's story "The Book People," a pseudo-fantasy based on the premise that portraying characters in works of fiction is the occupation of tiny, human-like Book People. The fantasy element is actually only a cover for another standard story of girl meets girl, though thankfully minus the butch/femme preoccupation.

The good thing about anthologies — particularly those published by feminist/alternative presses — is that readers can easily sample the work of new or less well-known writers.

Either of these collections would be a good choice for an introduction to contemporary lesbian writers — but give *IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT* are slightly less conventional, less tied to a slight edge for including more unconventional selections. •



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VIEWS

No promo Demos?

WHEN NEWS CAME late last week that both Tennessee's senators, Al Gore and Jim Sasser, had actually voted in favor of New Hampshire Senator Gordon Humphrey's "no promo homo" amendment, we were dismayed and upset by the actions of the two men we helped to elect.

Both Gore and Sasser, sometimes seen by lesbians and gay men in the Volunteer State as progressive representatives, appeared all too eager to turn their backs on a large number of their constituents. By voting with their Republican colleagues — and quite a few Democrats, too, considering the 85-13 vote — Gore and Sasser indicated that they consider people of homosexual orientation to be second-class citizens.

Under the Humphrey amendment to the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Act, no federal funds can be allocated for the production or distribution of materials directed at school children which identifies homosexuality as a normal, healthy, alternative lifestyle. The senators' vote proves both of them to be much more repressive than they would have had us believe while on the campaign trail.

When we attempted to contact Gore and Sasser, we discovered they weren't in Washington. Instead, they had been in Nashville, attending with Governor McWhorter an event in honor of labor leader Jim Neeley. The senators, what with their busy schedules on Capitol Hill, just wouldn't have time to talk to their interested, and somewhat miffed, constituents.

Failing that, we asked for comments from their press secretaries. Sasser's staff "was in a meeting" and "will get back to you later." At press time, two days later, there's still no word from Sasser's press office.

Marla Romash of Gore's staff, who was "in a meeting" every time we called, did call back — during lunch, about 12:30 p.m. CDT Monday afternoon. Subsequent phone calls proved fruitless: "She's in a meeting," we were told.

Finally, Gore press aide Laura Travers took our call. She knew nothing about the Humphrey amendment, had never heard of *Dare*, and even seemed a bit surprised that the caller was from Nashville.

"I'll get back to you," she promised.

Forty-eight hours later, she still hasn't called back.

So, what does this mean? It could mean the senators' staffs are so bogged down by work they just don't have time to respond to constituent or press questions. Or it could mean that phone lines between Washington and Tennessee just aren't what they used to be.

BUT WHAT WE THINK it means is that they simply don't want to be faced with difficult questions, the answers to which probably wouldn't wash with an informed constituency.

Our advice to the Tennessee constituents of Senators Gore and Sasser? Let them know that "no promo homo" is an offensive, short-sighted piece of government vitriol.

If they don't listen to you now, they will when election time rolls around.

And the votes are counted. •

Dare

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

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

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Publisher
STUART BIVIN

Editor
JEFF ELLIS

Book Editor
SHERRE DRYDEN

Staff Intern
MARK LAWRENCE

Staff Writers
CAROLE CUNNINGHAM
JOE MAROHL
LAURA TEK

Contributors
NANCY LYN DEFINE
LESLIE HAINES • JIM ROCHE

Circulation
SANDY ROUSSELL

Advertising Sales
KEVIN BASS • BRIAN HULSE

Dare logo designed by
RUSEL BROWN



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SOAPBOX

Frank-ly speaking

by JIM ROCHE

Contributing Writer

ABOUT HIRING A male prostitute for sex, and then hiring him as a "housekeeper," Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) said, "Thinking I was going to be Henry Higgins and trying to turn him into Pygmalion was the biggest mistake I ever made."

Listening to radio talk shows the day Frank's indiscretions were announced, it seemed that the explanation wasn't good enough for everybody. Some cried for Frank's resignation. Some cried for a recall referendum. Sunday news shows called for Congress itself to oust Frank from office.

Again and again, the question is asked, "What if [North Carolina] Senator [Jesse] Helms were to have hired a prostitute and then took her home to be his maid?"

The most severe attack on one radio station put forth evidence of Frank's lack of forthrightness by pointing out that Frank's original coming out to Congress in May, 1987, was actually a result of his souring love affair with his former employee. And I suppose, as I look over the facts, it was.

So what?

The point that many who call for Frank's resignation don't seem to realize is that Barney Frank grew up in a culture that completely rejected his homosexuality. Like all of us, lesbians and gay men, Frank was taught that same sex love was unacceptable and could never be openly expressed. Especially if your career depended upon the approval of the general public, like Frank's.

What these voices of attack are saying is that homosexual and heterosexual life experience is the same. They aren't.

I've heard enough about "if Jesse Helms did this..." Barney Frank hasn't called Jesse Helms' heterosexual lifestyle sick (but can you imagine bedding down with Helms and not being sick?). He hasn't tried to outlaw it. He hasn't threatened his or any other heterosexual's job because they are straight.

Heterosexuals don't lose their jobs for wearing wedding rings. They don't keep their weddings and relationships secret. There aren't organized religious and political groups trying to take away their basic rights and freedoms.

There aren't Republican gubernatorial candidates saying that if they are elected they

will search out and fire heterosexual teachers and state employees (welcome to New Jersey, honey!).

For God's sake, it's illegal for Barney Frank to have a lifetime lover living with him in his own home in Washington. Right now if Barney Frank had a lover and they were totally, absolutely, positively monogamous, had lived together for 20 years and attended church every Sunday, in Washington, just like in Tennessee, he could still be put in prison for his love!

And, believe it or not, that's just what some people want to do with Barney Frank!

How can "responsible gay writers" like Dave Walter in *THE ADVOCATE* write: "The official gay line on the Frank incident should simply be that it is one in which sexual orientation has no significant relevance..."

Try telling that to all of us who are harassed, arrested and eventually imprisoned due to sodomy laws? One wonders who *THE ADVOCATE* is the advocate for? I wish Dave Walter would look around and see reality. It must be nice to be employed as a professional gay man, rather than being harassed and eventually fired for it.

We lesbian and gay people have had to meet other lesbian and gay people in bars if we were to meet them anywhere at all. (Not that heterosexuals do anything like that!)

We have had to meet people through newspaper ads, just like Barney Frank did.

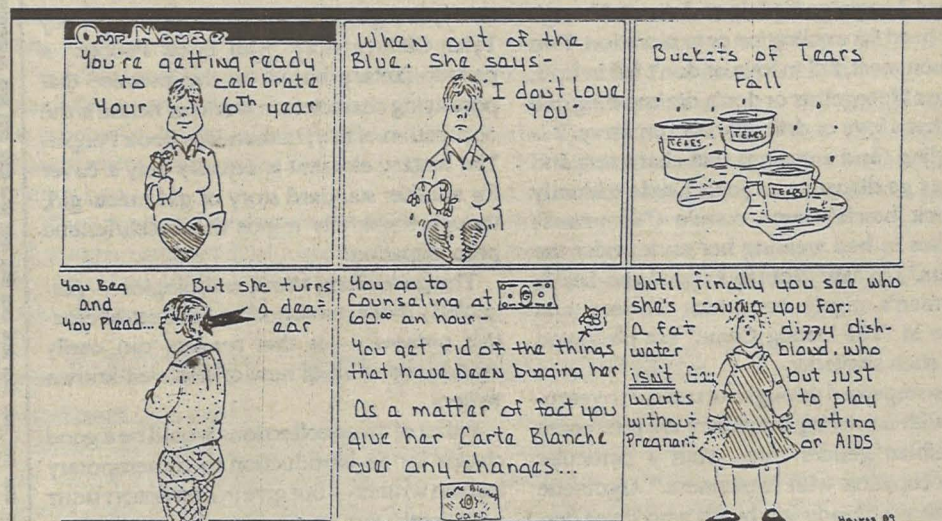
In the search for human contact and sensual connections we have to sometimes resort to impersonal and anonymous sex (again, apparently unknown in the heterosexual community).

THAT'S NOT A REFLECTION on the character of Barney Frank, but rather upon a world created by people like Helms and [U.S. Rep. William] Dannemeyer [R-Calif.]. These same bigots blame black teenagers for being unemployed and Hispanic teens for quitting school; underpaid women for not properly caring for "their" children.

Stop blaming oppressed people for their oppression.

Stop battering people into the closet and then blaming them for being there.

To those who cry for Barney Frank to quit and go home, I say, "Get a life." •



— DARE CARTOON BY LESLIE HAINES

S O A P B O X

Defining dull

by **NANCY LYN DEFINE**
Contributing Writer

SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE a slice of Wonder bread in a world of French pastry.

Oliver North is more hip than I am. Compared to me, Bob Newhart is a party animal. And Jane Curtin's wardrobe on *kate and allie* would be considered trendsetting next to mine.

My mother has a more active social life. And she's 71 years old.

On the few occasions when I drop by the local bar, I could swear I hear people whispering something about Donna Reed.

My idea of a big night is renting a video of MARTIN MULL, LIVE IN LANSBURG, OHIO.

If I'm feeling particularly risqué, I follow up the Martin Mull video with DICK CAVETT: THE MAN BEHIND THE LEGEND. I once stayed up until almost three in the morning when PBS was running a THIS OLD HOUSE marathon. But that kind of excessive behavior usually results in my having to take a valium.

Every so often I'm offered "coke" by some of my sister's friends. My usual answer is that I would prefer Pepsi, it isn't too much trouble. And when my cousin told me about a new club, Riot, I thought he was referring to the 1968 Democratic convention.

Hope and Michael, in the ABC series THIRTYSOMETHING, are my idea of a modern day Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald. And I think Peter Jennings would be a much better news anchor if he weren't so emotional.

Jane Pauley and Bryant Gumbel embody my conception of *bons vivants*.

But then, Woody Allen personifies a latter day Beau Brummel to me. I don't care for Tom Brokaw especially. Don't you agree that he'd probably be better as the host of SOUL TRAIN, where his hyperactive, colorful personality would be more in tune with the program? Did I mention that I don't watch Koppel and Letterman anymore? I finally realized that all of that late night excitement was bad for my nerves.

In a way, I guess I should consider myself lucky. I suppose I'd be a lot worse off if I were a gay man. I mean, nobody expects gay women to razzle-dazzle. For instance, when was the last time you saw an entertainer impersonate a lesbian? Still, sometimes it would be nice to shine, to steal the show, to— you know — glitter! After all, we have as much of a right to "march to a different drummer" as any other self-respecting gay person does.

Unfortunately, marching to any beat re-

quires, at the very least, a little bit of rhythm. And I have none. The last time I attempted to dance was when everyone was doing the bunny hop at my cousin's wedding two years ago. I fell into my great Uncle Elmer and sprained my ankle.

To me, "cruising somebody" would mean booking them a passage on a luxury line. My concept of "high energy music" is the polka. And in my world, the word dish is always used in conjunction with meals.

The smell of leather makes me think of the interior of a beige Mercedes.

And I can't imagine tattooing my, ah, derrière. If I want to see a butterfly, I'd prefer the setting to be a little more pastoral than ass-toral.

Poppers is the name my boarding-school roommate called her father.

And I've been known to admonish gay men about their excessive use of Crisco; after all, any number of cooking oils now on the market are much lower in saturated fat. The resulting laughter usually embarrasses me.

But then, my idea of an erotic conversation is discussing PMS with my physician. Oh, and I almost never use the word "fabulous" (as in, "Dahling, you look

simply f-a-a-a-bulous in chartreuse!")

Actually, I don't even know what color chartreuse is.

I sometimes wonder if I would have been different, more Mae West and less Jane Cleaver, the kind of woman who dances at a party with a lampshade on her head, if I had been born in a warmer climate. The south of France, for instance. Or Spain. Someplace exotic, mysterious, hotblooded.

MAYBE THEN, ALL THE MONEY my parents spent sending me to Ona Mae's School of Dance and Ballet would have paid off.

I'd walk into a gay bar; my feet would automatically start tapping. My hips would gyrate. My pelvis would do whatever it is that pelvises are supposed to do. My fingers would snap to the beat. And nobody would whisper a word about Donna Reed.

Instead, I'd be compared to the Divine Miss M. I'd be a star.

People would mistake me for a female impersonator!

I'd dish and I'd swish and I might even dance all night. I'd be sexy. I'd be hot. I'd be oh! so gay.

I'd...darn, I have to go. I forgot to take out the Miracle Whip for my cheeseburger. •

I sometimes wonder if I would have been different, more Mae West and less Jane Cleaver, the kind of woman who dances at a party with a lampshade on her head, if I had been born in a warmer climate. The south of France, for instance. Or Spain. Someplace exotic, mysterious, hotblooded.

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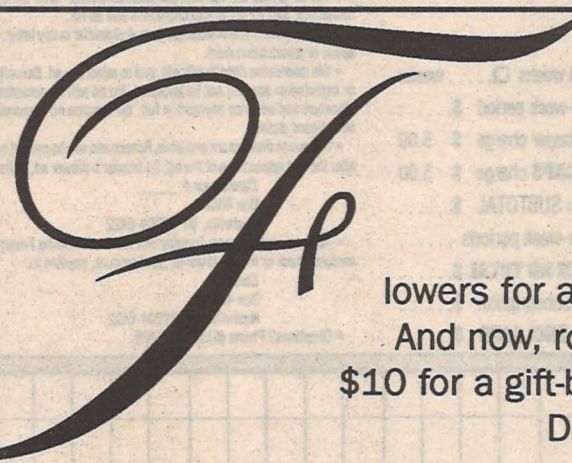
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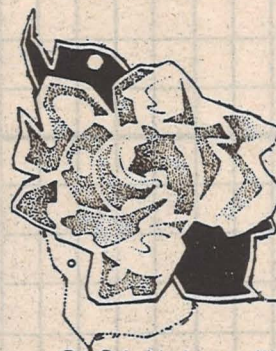
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M A R K E T

Announcements

• New lesbian and gay community meeting space needs interior decoration: chairs, lamps, tables, art-works, mirrors, bookshelves, rugs, ceiling fans. New or used. Nashville. Call GALLIP 615 297-0008.

• **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.

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

• **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.

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37204 or phone 615 327-Dare.

Homes

• Garage/effcy apt, A/C, private, W/D connections, stove, refrig, historic neighborhood, water pd, no pets, \$250/mo, 1-yr lease plus deposit. Nashville. 615 226-5765.

• Urban contemporary 2BR/1B 50s cottage in Nashville's Historic Edgefield. Shady yard, front porch swing; vaulted ceilings, skylights, ceiling fans, hwd flrs. W/D hkups; refrigerator, stove, water incl. \$450/mo. 615 262-4219.

• GWM seeks M roommate for quiet 2-bdrm townhouse near West End. \$225 mo + 1/2 utilities. Nashville. 615 383-2883.

Personal

• Happy belated birthday, Mark. Many happy reruns. We know how excited you are about driving all night.

• Bev: Hi, honey, how are you? I miss you. Let's get together and gossip. Your favorite former decorator.

• Young lesbian at UT/Martin wishes to write and meet friends across Tennessee. DARE DRAWER 39.

• Happy Birthday, Tek! 1 more year closer to GAY-ATTY.

Q U O T E S

Don't flatter yourself, Zsa Zsa

"I have nothing against gays or lesbians. I have lots of gay boys working for me. How do I know who's in jail? Imagine a women's jail. There must be lesbians... Maybe I should become a lesbian. What do I know? I like men."

— Zsa Zsa Gabor responding to criticism of her statements about being fearful of a jail term because she's "afraid of lesbians" who she believes inhabit California jails.

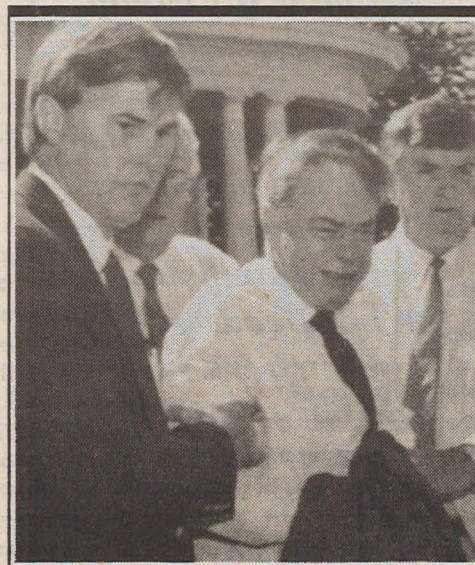
"I don't like boys with earrings... Men should look like men."

— Zsa Zsa again, the very next day, taking a jab at a witness who contradicted her story about being attacked by a Beverly Hills traffic cop.

"There they were, frolicking about, taking turns placing each other on the massage table. The hands

started with the knees, working their way up the thighs into the intimate massages — accompanied by schoolgirl giggles and cries of 'Whooooee!'"

— Austin Miles, in reference to defrocked PTL leader Jim Bakker and three other men, in a story in PEOPLE magazine. Miles was a member of the PTL flock for 10 years and has recently published his account of life with the Bakkers, DON'T CALL ME BROTHER. Miles claims that he walked into the steam room in the back of Bakker's office in 1977 and found him cavorting with the three young men.



Jim Bakker: "Whooooee!". — DARE FILE PHOTO

"They made him bend over in front of all those men."

— Tammy Faye Bakker, quoted in NEWSWEEK, claiming that Jim had been strip-searched after her visits. She neither confirmed nor denied rumors that Jim told prison guards to "Give it to me, and give it to me good," or that he insisted on being called "Monique" during searches.

"4. Is there anything in your background for which you feel you could be successfully blackmailed? A. homosexual activity; B. mental disorders; C. abnormal sex acts; D. excessive gambling; E. excessive drinking; F. other."

— From the Polk County, Fla., Sheriff's Office polygraph questionnaire given to all applicants for employment with the department.

"The court recognizes the reality that in today's America it is hard to define a family as a mom, a dad and 2.3 kids. The entire concept of family has changed nationwide, and gay/lesbian relationships are just a part of the non-traditional domestic scene that is now emerging. I'm happy to see that the law is keeping pace."

— Nashville attorney Abby Rubinfeld, quoted in the AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION JOURNAL, discussing a recent ruling from the New York Court of Appeals that reversed a lower court decision permitting the eviction of a man from a Manhattan apartment leased to his male lover who died after the couple had shared the apartment for 10 years.

"We were not wise enough to pray for gay children. But at least we are now smart enough to thank God for sending those gay children to us."

— Melvin E. Wheatly Jr., a retired United Methodist bishop, quoted in OUTLOOK magazine by Robert A. Bernstein, vice president of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG).

"The most ridiculous thing is to see a woman in a bathing suit telling the world she wants to be a doctor. I cannot imagine a man in that humiliating position."

— Anne Simonton, former Miss Teen Covina, Calif., cover "girl" of SPORTS ILLUSTRATED's 1974 swimsuit issue and editor of MEDIA WATCH.

"America has the prettiest gals in the world, but they must hide when the Miss America Beauty Pageant starts. What I saw last Saturday night might have been a search for

'Miss Jimmy Durante' of 1990. Surely there must be prettier girls than this year's sorry lot."

— Bill Bingle, of Franklin, N.C., in a letter to USA TODAY.

"Mr. Bingle makes me tingle when he comes to town, 'Cause when he comes to town Christmas-time's around."

— Miss Holly, singing the theme song from THE MR. BINGLE SHOW, an old Memphis holiday tradition sponsored by Loewenstein's Department Store. Otho Boggs has a Mr. Bingle doll.

"You can't even walk! What kind of drugs are you on today? You should never have tried to coordinate your hair with your clothes."

— An anonymous diner in Susan Catherine's book OVERHEARD AT AMERICA'S LUNCH COUNTERS.

"I'm sorry, I just think the sisters are funnier. Outsiders develop humor as a defense, but they also think funnier. If you're on the inside, you can afford to be more shallow. Why do you think most of the comedians and also the composers are gay or Jewish? It's a defense, a refuge — laughter and music."

— The late, great comedian Paul Lynde in an interview in the forthcoming book, CELEBRITY GAZE, by Boze Hadleigh.

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