

Dare

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 40

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

OCTOBER 6 - 12, 1989

Heart Strings raises \$156K

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Almost \$86,000 was raised by last week's Nashville performance of HEART STRINGS: The National Tour, according to steering committee chair John Bridges. Along with the more than \$70,000 raised by the Memphis performance three days earlier, AIDS-service organizations in the two cities will add 85% of the net profit to their coffers.

The Nashville performance, in the sold-out Polk Theatre of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC), was a tremendous success, judging not only from the gross ticket receipts, but from the reactions of the audience as well.

"Everyone was just amazed and thrilled by the whole evening," Bridges said. "When you do an event such as this, the moment you walk into the hall and see the room is crowded—and the parties before are well-attended—you know the evening's a smashing success."

Bridges said donations are continuing to come into the HEART STRINGS/Nashville office and that a final tally has yet to be determined.

The Broadway-style musical revue was narrated in Nashville by Grand Ole Opry star and Country Music Hall of Famer Minnie Pearl and the Rev. Edwin Sanders.

"Minnie Pearl and Ed Sanders really warmed the hearts of the people in the audience," Bridges



Eve Willis Tate, center, and two other members of the HEART STRINGS cast perform "The Trojan Horse Medley," one of the highlights of the musical revue's second act. The touring company raised a total of \$156,000 during two Tennessee performances last week. —PHOTO BY TOMMY LAWSON

said. "Minnie's elation backstage was as high a point for me as anything that happened on stage."

Sanders and Minnie Pearl, known offstage and in Nashville social circles as Sarah Ophelia Cannon, provided the narrative thread which connected the musical song-and-dance numbers performed by the professional company.

The Nashville performance followed a show earlier in the week at

Memphis' Ellis Auditorium. An estimated \$70,000 was raised during the show's Memphis stand.

Among local celebrities participating in the Nashville show were television anchor Brenda Blackman; country music greats Tom T. Hall and Roseanne Cash; and Tennessee Repertory Theatre's Mac Pirkle.

Performing a ballet to the song
• continued on page 11

Ringling in the '90s

Radecic addresses Town Meeting

by MARK LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

Peri Jude Radecic, legislative director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), and representatives from different segments of the Nashville lesbian and gay community spoke at a Gay and Lesbian Town Meeting on Monday.

The meeting was sponsored by the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA). According to Jack Prostko, a member of T-GALA's board of directors, one of the purposes of the meeting was to look for "the best way an organization like T-GALA can represent the community in Nashville."

One of the early purposes of T-GALA was to reach out to the community through a newspaper or television, Prostko said, but organizations such as Dare and the Gay Cable Network/Nashville have provided such services independently. "We need to have some other way to focus T-GALA," he said.

Prostko said the fact that others have stepped in to undertake such projects is positive. "I think it's a good sign that so many people are working on their own toward certain goals."

The danger of such activities, however, is that the community may "fragment and fly off in different directions" because members of different groups do not communi-

cate with one another, said Prostko.

Emily Whitcomb, from the Nashville Women's Alliance, discussed the difficulties of giving lesbians more access to the community. "Our main thrust has been having coffeehouses and dances" to make up for the fact that lesbians do not frequent bars as much as gay men.

Whitcomb said she wants "to have a place for women to support women in their lifestyle," but found it difficult to attract new people to events because of the low profile of the community in Nashville.

Ken Freedman, who performs as a female impersonator under the name Diana Hutton, spoke about the concerns of gay performers, especially female impersonators.

Freedman said the community was split between those who enjoy going to see female impersonators, and those "who don't want to have anything to do with it."

"We are all gay and lesbian—we have that in common—but we are all different people," said Freedman. However, he was concerned about prejudice within the community against cross-dressers.

"Personally, I've never had a tough time with that," he said. "I think there's a lot of misconceptions about drag anyway." For example, Freedman said it is difficult for performers to maintain romantic

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Radecic: work on US, Tennessee legislators

NGLTF Legislative Director says future depends on organizing

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

While lesbian and gay leaders throughout the country plot political strategies for a new decade, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) Capitol Hill lobbyist said Tennessee's future depends upon choices made today.

Peri Jude Radecic, NGLTF's legislative director and congressional lobbyist, said the future success of lesbian and gay-oriented legislation depends upon the electorate sending progressive representatives both to Washington and the statehouse.

Radecic was in Nashville earlier this week for an informal meeting with lesbian and gay leaders Sunday and a Monday night "Town Meeting" hosted by the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA). During an interview with Dare, Radecic discussed legislative strategies and the future of lesbian/gay activism in the state.

"The future depends on the direction taken by organizations in the state," Radecic said. "There are a number of things an individual can do in the process of creating change. For example, it is important to target legislators who are swing votes on particular issues or who can be persuaded to vote with us on certain matters."

In addition to targeting specific lawmakers for lobbying efforts, Radecic recommended targeting others for defeat at the polls.

For those efforts to succeed, she said, it is imperative that leaders of lesbian and gay organizations have a better understanding of the legislative process on the local, state and national levels.

"All members of these organizations should become familiar, more experienced, with the legislative process. But it is vital the organization leaders understand it," she explained.

• continued on page 5

I N S I D E

Dare this week

Suicide is killing our children.

Part 2 in a series.

Centerpiece, page 6.



Quilt-ing
and Fiddl-ing.
Curtains, page 9.

Arsenio Hall: "When you're
in bed at night, that hurts."

Quotes, page 12.



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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.

Knoxville

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

Mondays
aids Response Knoxville PWA Support
Group, 7-8:30pm. Info 615 523-AIDS.
Gay Gratitude Group Open, nonsmoking
Alcoholics Anonymous. Tennessee Valley
Unitarian Church, 3219 Kingston Pike. 7pm.

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 meet-
ing, 2nd Tuesday only, 8pm. 1320 N. Central.
Info 615 521-6546.

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

Fridays
Gay Gratitude Group Alcoholics Anony-
mous. MCC / Knoxville, 1320 North Central.
Noon.

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 Episco-
pal 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 Anony-
mous) 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 Wor-
ship service, 11am. 1216 Forrest Ave. Info
901 726-9443.
Into the Light (Women's Alcoholics Anony-
mous) 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 Anony-
mous meeting for gay men and lesbians,
Unitarian Church. 8pm.
MAGNET (Married and Gay Network) Sup-
port 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. Unitar-
ian Church. 7:30pm. Info 615 662-0332.
Sober Sisters (Lesbian Alcoholics Anony-
mous) 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, Fran-
klin 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 Com-
munity Dinner, all you can eat. 7:30pm. \$5.
Info 615 320-0288.

Sundays

Metropolitan Community Church Wor-
ship services, 11am and 7pm. Info 615 320-
0288.
Incest Survivors Anonymous Closed
meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd.
6pm.

Tri-Cities

Sundays
Metropolitan Community Church
Worship service, 7pm. Holston Valley Unitar-
ian Church. Info 615 926-4393.

Tuesdays

Support Group Tri-Cities AIDS Project. For
caregivers / families of PWAs, HIV+ and ARC.
6:30pm. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays only. Info 615
928-6101 or 753-9647

Thursdays

Support Group Appalachian AIDS Coal-
ition. For PWAs, ARC, and HIV+ in southwest
Virginia, including Bristol, TN. 3rd Thursday
only. Info 703 985-0131.

Big events

living well with aids



Friday, October 6

Discussion SURVIVING WELL WITH
AIDS. Steve Pieters will speak about living
with AIDS and about alternative treat-
ments. Metropolitan Community Church
/ Nashville, 131 15th Ave North, Nash-
ville. Free. 7pm. Info 615 320-0288.

Saturday, October 7

Discussion SURVIVING WELL WITH
AIDS. Steve Pieters will speak about living
with AIDS and about alternative treat-
ments. Sponsored by Metropolitan
Community Church / Tri-Cities, at Hol-
ston Valley Unitarian Church, Johnson
City. Free. Potluck, 5:30pm, presenta-
tion 6:30pm. Info 615 926-4393.

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.

Tuesday, October 10

Poetry Reading Luz Maria Umpierre
will read from her THE MARGARITA POEMS, at
the Book Oasis, Nashville. Free. 7pm.
Info 615 292-7100.

Wednesday, October 11

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY Take
your next step. Turn on your headlights.

Friday, October 13

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

Saturday, October 14

Women's Dance Featuring DJ Dawn
Barrett. At Laurel Theatre, 1538 Laurel
Ave, Knoxville. Beer, setups available. \$4
at the door. 8pm. Info 615 688-3428.
Reception For National Association of
Black and White Men Together Board of
Directors, in Memphis for Interim meet-
ing. 8pm. Info 901 726-1461.

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BRIEFS

compiled by **MARK LAWRENCE**
Staff Writer

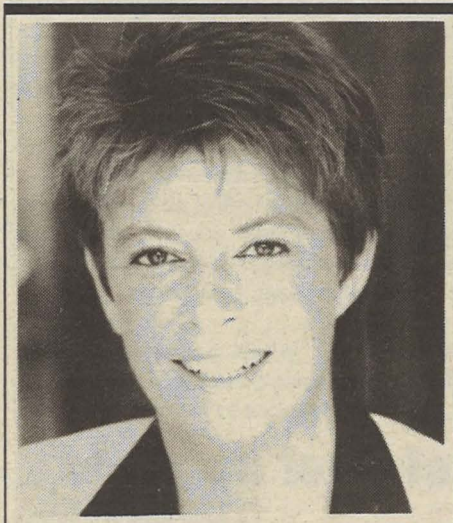
HRCF addresses lesbian issues

WASHINGTON — Kathleen Stoll has been named to head the Human Rights Campaign fund's newly created Lesbian Issues and Outreach Project.

"It really is a dream come true to have this opportunity to work full time on lesbian issues," said Stoll. "Every person knows there is one issue that is uniquely special to them and that tugs the hardest on their heart. For me, it's the struggle for lesbian rights."

The project is intended to address the political and policy issues of the lesbian community. Stoll will develop policy positions and legislative proposals and integrate them into HRCF's political, lobbying, media and constituent mobilization operations.

"Kathleen's commitment, knowledge and skills are extremely impressive," said Tim McFeeley, HRCF executive director. "We are delighted she has chosen to use those talents for the advancement of the lesbian community within the context of the Campaign Fund's Lesbian Issues and Outreach Program." •



Jean O'Leary, National Gay Rights Advocates executive director, advocates the right of terminally ill to end extraordinary life support. — DARE FILE PHOTO

NGRA pushes right to end life support

WASHINGTON — National Gay Rights Advocates, a gay civil rights law firm, has filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *CRUZAN V. CRUZAN*. The Court will determine whether the family of Nancy Cruzan, a 31-year-old Missouri woman, can terminate her life support. Cruzan has been in a coma for six years following an automobile accident.

"This case has obvious implications for people with AIDS and their loved ones who may have to make similar decisions," said Jean O'Leary, NGRA executive director. This is the first time that the Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case involving an individual's right to terminate extraordinary medical life support.

"The Supreme Court has already delivered a crushing blow to the sexual privacy rights of gay and lesbian Americans," said Benjamin Schatz, director of NGRA's AIDS Civil Rights Project. "We cannot allow the Court to further erode our privacy rights by taking away our right to medical privacy as well." •

NGLTF gets \$360K

WASHINGTON — The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has received a \$360,000 bequest, the largest in its 16-year history, from the late Harry R. Rowe, a psychiatrist from Long Beach, California.

"Dr. Rowe had many gay patients and friends, and recognized how terribly important it is for gay people to have greater protection under the law," said William McLane, executor of the Rowe estate. "He wanted to leave his assets to an organization that was committed to social change, one that has a proven record of accomplishment. It was on that basis that he chose NGLTF." •

Oregon ACT UP sues US Marshal

PORTLAND — The local chapter of AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) has filed a federal suit against Kernon Bagley, U.S. Marshal for the District of Oregon. The suit alleges that federal marshals in Portland illegally strip searched ten ACT UP demonstrators following their arrest at a protest against Food and Drug Administration AIDS policies.

The suit stems from a protest last February at which demonstrators blew whistles and chanted slogans outside FDA offices in a federal office building. Eleven demonstrators were arrested and charged with creating a disturbance in a federal office building. Before being released, they were strip searched by marshals wearing rubber gloves.

The demonstrators, all lesbians and gay men, call the search unjustified and in violation of their fourth amendment right against unreasonable searches. "The question the government will have to explain to a jury is 'why.' Why were these people strip searched? I can think of no legitimate reason," said Tom Steenson, a Portland attorney representing the demonstrators.

According to ACT UP's Wayne Harris, "There was no reason to believe the arrestees would bring contraband or weapons into the holding area. This was nonviolent civil disobedience. The government knew that in advance from pre-demonstration discussions with ACT-UP representatives." •

Writers' meet set

SAN FRANCISCO — "OutWrite '90", the first national conference for lesbian and gay writers, has been set for March 3-4, 1990.

"This is the first time ever that lesbian and gay writers are being brought together to meet, to share their talents and interests," said Jeffrey Escoffier, one of the event's organizers.

To find out more, call (415) 626-7929. •

Border to border, cover to cover.



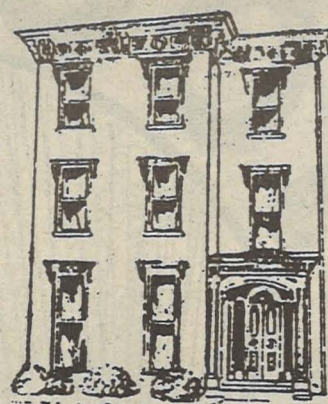
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(ATEAC)
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COMING SOON



SOMETHING NEW IN NASHVILLE'S NITE LIFE

...Town Meeting

• continued from page 1

relationships. "Once they find out, it's over."

Several members of the audience indicated that they believed dislike of female impersonators was caused by internalized homophobia, especially among men who feel that cross-dressers present a false image of the gay community in heterosexual society.

Despite these difficulties, much of the overt discrimination in the community against female impersonators has ended. "I think Nashville is over all of that," Freedman said. "That's one plus for us." He remains concerned, though, that "some organizations don't want to encourage us to be members."

Freedman also talked about performers' concerns about how they were treated by the organizers of benefit shows. "We don't mind doing benefits," he said, but "There's not much follow-up" after performers are initially contacted about doing a show.

"A lot of times we don't have any idea about what it is they want" in regard to the length of the performance or the number of performers. Freedman also said performers would appreciate it if organizers would give them a better idea of how proceeds are used and thank them for their efforts after the show.

A woman who gave her full name, then asked that she be referred to only as "Ann," discussed the problems of recovering addicts in the community.

Phil Thomas, a black gay man, talked about the difficulties of being a "minority within a minority." He said blacks are especially unwilling to be openly gay. "Very few of us can say we are black and gay."

Thomas believes this is due to two sets of stereotypes. One is the belief among blacks that all gay men are "effeminate little white boys." The other is the prejudices of whites, including lesbian and gay whites, against blacks.

"All of those are myths," Thomas said, adding "Prejudice has no place in an already oppressed segment of society."

...work on legislators

• continued from page 1

Radecic said that national lobbying efforts (conducted primarily by NGLTF and Human Rights Campaign Fund [HRCF] in coalition with other groups) have "gotten better as the national gay and lesbian community has become better organized."

"The way we work is through coalitions. There are a number of issues that affect more groups than those in the gay community," she said. "We need to build and work in coalitions. It's not being done in an effective way. We need to build coalitions around issues."

But as political activism among lesbians and gay men has grown, so too have the voices of right-wing detractors.

"As we've become more active, we've opened ourselves up to attacks from right-wing politicians such as [Senator Jesse] Helms (R-N.C.) and [U.S. Rep. William] Dannemeyer (R-Calif.). The community is experiencing more attacks from outside," Radecic said.

Whitcomb said that she had difficulties getting black lesbians to come to social events, and was therefore often unsure how to deal with them when they did come.

When asked how lesbian and gay groups might better reach out to blacks and other minority groups within the community, audience members suggested placing literature in places that were more accessible to those who do not frequent bars and other gay-oriented establishments.

"If you don't go to the bars, you never get any of the literature, and you don't know what's going on," complained one audience member.

Finally, Radecic spoke about the efforts of the NGLTF and how their experiences could serve as a guide for local groups.

NGLTF's work on anti-gay violence has served as a rallying point for the group's efforts, she said. The group gathered extensive data on the subject as a part of its lobbying effort for the Hate Crimes Statistics Act. "The data that we collected helped make a case," said Radecic.

As a part of its effort to get the bill passed, NGLTF also began working with other civil rights organizations, such as the NAACP and People for the American Way. The lobbying also got positive responses from many members of Congress and helped the group's fundraising efforts. "It's been a great vehicle," said Radecic.

She said similar anti-violence efforts at the local level might also prove effective, especially given that statistics show one out of 10 lesbians and one out of four gay men have been victims of anti-gay violence. "What we're dealing with at the national level is the same as what you're dealing with here."

Radecic cited the success of organizational efforts in Iowa and Virginia as examples of how local groups can influence the political process. However, she cautioned against unwarranted optimism about how quickly changes could be achieved at the national level. •



Peri Jude Radecic — DARE
STAFF PHOTO

"You hear right-wingers talking about militant homosexuals invading the halls of congress, but actually there are only two of us [Radecic and Steve Smith of HRCF]."

Radecic said Tennessee's two senators, Al Gore and Jim Sasser, are, at best, enigmatic representatives.

"Sasser is a mixed bag. Gore seems to be willing to do the right thing. He does the right thing about 90% of the time. Sasser doesn't always do the right thing, but he doesn't always do the wrong thing," she said. "They've both pretty much done the right thing on hate crimes legislation."

Radecic suggested that any future political success in the Tennessee legislature could depend on the presence of a lesbian or gay lobbyist on Capitol Hill.

"If someone's in the state capital for a long time, they'll get to know people, learn how to stop bad legislation in committee before it even reaches the floor and who to go to for support on good legislation," she said. •

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October 11, 1989

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starting report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Task Force on Youth Suicide, issued in August, acknowledged that gay and lesbian youth are at an increased risk for suicide.

by **LAURA TEK**
Staff Writer

Evidence presented indicated that suicide is the leading cause of death among gay, lesbian and transsexual youth and that these youth may comprise close to 30% of the completed suicides annually.

Tennessean Kyle Newsom is not surprised by the report's findings. Although only 17, he's been through more in his life than most teenagers, and probably most adults, will ever experience.

Newsom says he's always known he was gay.

"I played with Barbie dolls as a kid and had tea-parties with my rag dolls. I loved watching my mother put on her make-up, and roll her hair. I love wigs," he said.

Newsom says that since kindergarten he was always teased by schoolmates.

"I was a fat child so they called me 'Fatso' and I was always very sissified. In junior high, they started calling me 'faggot.' I didn't even know what a faggot was. In high school things got real bad when, in my freshman year, I got beat up by a bunch of rednecks," he said.

"By this time I was so tired of being taunted and teased that I decided to change and tried to become very masculine. I even got myself a girlfriend. But it didn't work. After six weeks everyone found out and I just couldn't handle it, so I decided to quit school."

But Newsom never felt comfortable in a mainstream setting.

"I've always been a very flamboyant person, very loud and outgoing, and outspoken," he said. "In high school, I wore fluorescent clothes and looked like a fat Boy George with bleached blond hair and dark arched eyebrows. I was very open and very naïve."

Then, when Newsom turned 16, he came out of the closet. On his birthday.

"That was when I finally accepted my homosexuality. That's when I decided not to try to change myself anymore. I wasn't going to try to have heterosexual relationships anymore because I realized I'd only be hurting myself and others if I did that," he concluded.

And his parents' reaction to his revelation?

"When I came out to my mother, she freaked out, she didn't accept it," he said. "She said that I couldn't be gay until I was 18, that I couldn't go to Metropolitan Community Church (MCC, a gay-affirmative denomination with congregations in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Nashville and the Tri-Cities as well as around the world) anymore and just had to keep my feelings to myself."

"This was very difficult for me because by this time I had made many older gay friends and I had to lie to my mother about where I was going and who I was hanging out with. But I had to because if I told her the truth, she wouldn't have been able to handle it."

"When I was growing up, my father was never there for me. He was there financially for me, but never as a father. My mother used to think that [my father's absence] and because I was around females basically all of my life was what contributed to my being gay. But that's stupid. I've just always been attracted to men."

THE PRESSURES brought on by the lack of understanding afforded gay and lesbian youths by classmates, friends and family are often believed to be the reasons so many attempt suicide. Newsom, like many other gay teenagers, attempted suicide three times.

"The first time I was 15," he remembered. "I felt very degraded. My pride had been taken away. I had used a razor blade and blood just went everywhere."

"The second time was because I just couldn't get anything through to anybody. Nobody wanted to accept me, no one wanted to talk to me. I couldn't talk about my feelings in my own home. I was always told to shut up and go to my room. But I just couldn't keep it to myself anymore, so that's when I cried out again."

"The third time was when I was 16, and I just plain wanted out. The peer pressure and the break up of a relationship [with another high school student] that I had been in was just too much. This one I did by taking a lot of barbiturates and drinking rubbing alcohol. The hospital had to pump my stomach. They sent me to [Nashville's] Parthenon Pavilion where I stayed for a month. Then I was transferred to the Vanderbilt Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinic where I stayed for six months. That place was like an amusement park."

R P I E C E

to tell

Newsom says that all of his gay teenaged friends have tried to commit suicide at least once.

"I think that's because they're just not happy with themselves. They haven't had the time yet to grow, to understand what it all means. And their home status has a lot to do with it, too," he said. "Most teenagers are still living with their parents and if the situation between them is bad, that contributes to their problem of coming out. The greatest obstacle for gay teenagers is coming out to their parents. They are so afraid of rejection that they turn to drugs and alcohol or thoughts of suicide. They need to escape to a different world in order to comfort themselves."

He attributes these feelings of low self-worth to a lack of role models. But he has still managed to find some.

"My role models, the people who I look up to, are [female impersonator and entertainer] Carmella Marcella Garcia and my Mom. I have a lot of respect for them," he said. "Also, Paul Tucker, the former pastor at MCC/Nashville, helped me out tremendously. I discovered MCC when I was 15 and it's helped me to feel better about myself and to show me that God loves me for who I am."

"I'm lucky because my Mom accepts me now, but others risk being thrown out of their homes, beat up, or placed in an institution where they don't want to be."

"My whole family now knows I'm gay. My parents are divorced. I have one younger brother who's 11 who knows but doesn't really understand. I'm very proud of my family for supporting me. We haven't been on an easy road together. This last year has been extremely difficult."

"I also have the support of a lot of straight friends, especially women. I find that straight women are the most open to me because they're not intimidated by gay males."

BUT NEWSOM said that a school specifically for homosexual adolescents — like New York's Harvey Milk School — would be a haven for some Tennessee students.

"It's a great idea," Newsom said. "I wish they had something like that here. I would be very helpful, because I think there are many teenagers out there who are gay and are afraid to admit it. Right now, there are no other outlets for gay teenagers in Nashville other than some bookstores and Centennial Park. They're too young to go to the bars."

"My high school, which was a mainstream public school, actually labeled me on my record as an emotionally unstable person, handicapped really, simply because I was gay. So it's very difficult for gay and lesbian teenagers in mainstream schools because to school officials, being homosexual is being disabled. In a school like the Harvey Milk School, they can be themselves. My Mom actually did check into the Harvey Milk School for me, but I had to be a resident of the state."

THROUGH ALL of Newsom's school years, was he ever taught in his health classes that homosexuality is a viable, normal, healthy alternative lifestyle?

"No," he answered. "Homosexuality was never mentioned in school. The guys in my health class would laugh at me — I was the homosexuality class. It was never discussed. That's the whole problem, the lack of education about alternate lifestyles."

"Straight people must be made aware of us because we are everywhere. They have got to acknowledge us and afford us the dignity and decency that we deserve."

Besides a special school, what other ways could Tennessee serve its gay and lesbian youth?

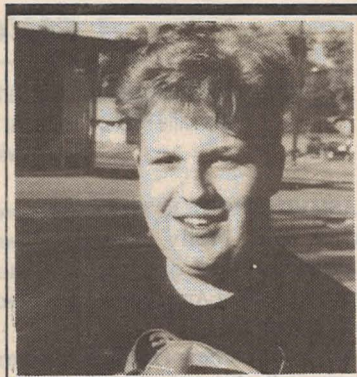
"We certainly could use a gay learning center, a gay community center, or a gay oasis center. We need more gay youth counselors. I'd like to be a gay youth counselor someday because I understand the confusion that gay teenagers face."

Becoming a counselor may have to wait, however, because Newsom is full of plans for his future.

"First, I'd like to complete my education but I'm unsure if I should go back to school and try it again, or just go for my GED," he said. "I'd like to eventually go into cosmetology. I'd like to be a hairdresser. I'd like to become a professional drag queen and enter a lot of pageants. I've always been into drag. I'm very good at female impersonation."

For the community overall, Newsom hopes "to see all gay relationships become stronger, more bonded."

"The community needs to unite more than it does." •



Kyle Newsom — DARE FILE PHOTO

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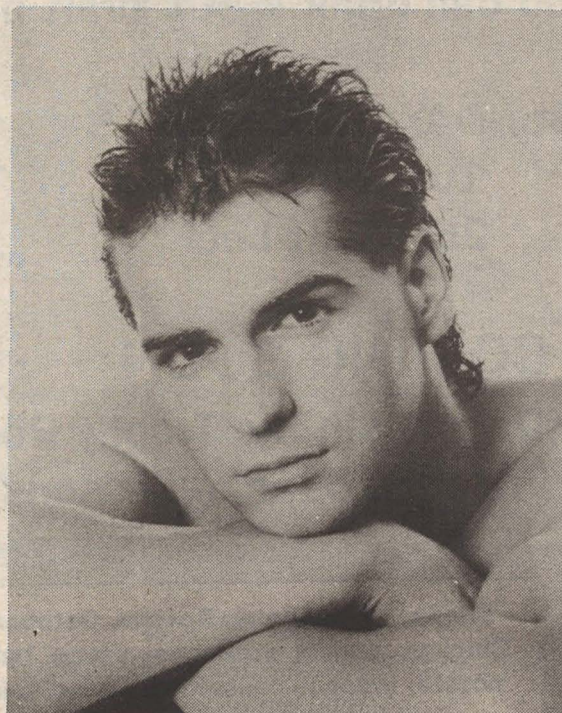
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CURTAINS

A stitch in time...

QUILTERS. By Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek. Directed by Dorothy Marie Robinson. Nashville Public Theatre. At Z. Alexander Looby Theatre. Through Oct. 15.

reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**
Editor

NASHVILLE PUBLIC THEATRE's production of the Molly Newman-Barbara Damashek musical *QUILTERS* is a moving, evocative piece of Americana presented by a superb ensemble.

QUILTERS, in a series of musical and narrative vignettes, tells the universal story of the pioneer spirit of the American woman. Although set in earlier times, the story's timeless appeal is felt throughout the show in quietly dramatic — and sometimes boisterously comic — style.

It is its own quiet way, *QUILTERS* tells of the American experience in a uniquely American way. It is not the typical musical: it doesn't rely on choruses of attractive dancers in scant costumes or the simplistic rhymes and rhythms of Tin Pan Alley. Instead, *QUILTERS* depends on the genuine human experience to relate its tale, one as contemporary as today, yet as traditional as yesterday.

The characters, drawn from the reminiscences of real women, real "quilters," vividly tell of the harsh realities of forging a way of life amid the relentless demands of the prairie.

But the recurring theme, exemplified by the care and attention given to quilting, is the abiding love of, and devotion to, family.

The story centers on the efforts of a mother figure to create a legacy quilt for her six daughters and their children and grandchildren. In the process, the stories of all American women are told in plaintive words set to stirring melodies that recall traditional tunes.

Director Dorothy Marie Robinson brings the show to life with her eloquent direction, a deft blending of acting styles and voices, giving her ensemble an exquisite framework for performance.

The seven women in the ensemble are ideally cast, all capable actresses who imbue their myriad characters with warmth and spirit. It's impos-

sible to single out any of the women (Barbara Jean Rogers, Patricia Taber, Rita Roxas, Vickie Wonders Foltz, Sandra Terry, P.C. Denver and Margaret Dill) for special praise, so consistently real are their performances.

Musical accompaniment by Kevin Sutton and Elisabeth Cutler is typically understated, yet moving all the same. •



Fiddling around

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. Book by Joseph Stein, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, music by Jerry Bock. Directed by Michael Edwards. Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre, Nashville. Through Nov. 4.

reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**
Editor

ANYONE WHO THINKS that dinner theatre is theatre done on the cheap with sub-par production values and less-than-adequate performers, would do well to visit Chaffin's Barn. The skillful production company there consistently brings top shows featuring some of the area's most talented actors to Nashville audiences.

The Barn's new production of *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF* proves once again that some of the area's best theatre is to be found on the outskirts of the city. Under Michael Edwards' direction, the musical is an entertaining and involving evening, a delight of colorful sights and glorious sounds.

Telling the story of Jewish peasants in tsarist Russia — a scant 20 years after Alexander III's pogroms eliminated thousands of Jews — *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF*, with its lushly memorable score (featuring "Sunrise, Sunset," "Matchmaker, Matchmaker" and "If I Were A Rich Man") is a truly effective theatrical event, tugging at the audience's collective heart.

Edwards does double-duty, performing yeoman service while assaying the pivotal role of Tevye, the dairy man whose tales of life

in pre-revolutionary Russia provide the show's plot. Edwards' Tevye is a world-weary laborer with a somewhat gruff exterior that cloaks a warm, kind heart.

One of the area's leading actors, Edwards might even be considered a star by local standards. Theatres can be filled on the strength of his name alone.

Edwards is given able support by a company of actors that comprise a virtual who's who of local theatre: Rona Carter, engaging and endearing as Tevye's wife Golde; Lari White and Chris Harrod, romantic and moving as Hodel and Perchik, their lovely voices providing

the evening's musical highlights; Liz Boswell, funny and somewhat stereotypical as Yente, the matchmaker; Mark DeLaBarre, sweetly awkward as Motel, the poor tailor; with Barbara Laifer and Sondra Morton as Tevye's other daughters.

The cast makes wonderful use of the Barn's in-the-round staging, using a minimum of props and a maximum of lighting techniques to present a *FIDDLER* that's as good as any production we've seen. •



PAGES

Oh, to be young and evil again

THE YOUNG AND EVIL. Charles Henri Ford and Parker Tyler. Illustrations by Pavel Tchelitchev.
New York: Gay Presses of New York, 1988. 215 pages. \$11.95, paper.

reviewed by **SHERRE DRYDEN**

Book Editor

AS A NOVEL THE YOUNG AND EVIL is, regrettably, quite unimportant. The early, experimental collaboration of two young men who would later achieve some prominence as editors and critics rather than as novelists, THE YOUNG AND EVIL is too artificial, too self-consciously (and unsuccessfully) modernist to succeed as fiction. These problems aside, THE YOUNG AND EVIL is a fascination and important addition to the canon of gay and lesbian studies.

Charles Henri Ford grew up in the small-town south and had decided by age 17 that fame was his chief desire. The route he chose was to publish a poetry magazine: in 1929 he dropped out of high school to launch BLUES: A MAGAZINE OF NEW RHYTHMS.

Probably more because of the timely demise of prominent literary magazines like the dial, the little review and transition that Ford's brilliance or even persistence, literary stars like Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams and H.D. sent their manuscripts to BLUES.

Among the less famous to submit work was the poet Parker Tyler, born in New Orleans but living in Greenwich Village. Tyler's poems appeared in the first issue of BLUES, he and Ford corresponded and soon Tyler's name was included on the magazine's masthead as Associate Editor.

Tyler had been in Greenwich Village since 1924, writing and reading his poetry, reviewing books and establishing his reputation with the Village crowd. According to Steven Watson, who provides an excellent introduction to the GPNY edition of THE YOUNG AND EVIL, Tyler's "fame was as much a product of his theatrical self-presentation as it was of the words he wrote. He was never simply Parker Tyler, writer, but The Beautiful Poet Parker Tyler, a character in a drama of his own devising." He used mascara and eyebrow pencil to enhance his beauty, dressed flamboyantly and was notorious for being unable to pass a mirror without checking his appearance. "My dear," Tyler told his lover Charles Boultenhouse, "you wouldn't believe the amount of time I spent on my hair."

When Ford moved to New York in 1930 Tyler met him at Pier 36. That meeting and the next months of Ford and Tyler's lives in Greenwich Village are the thinly disguised plot of THE YOUNG AND EVIL. Charles and Parker are renamed Julian and Karel; friends and lovers from the real MacDougal Street become fictional characters Louis, Gabriel and Theodosia. They are all undeniably young, adherents to a cult of youth and beauty. They are evil because they are not moral.

It is unclear who wrote what parts of THE YOUNG AND EVIL. The book roams around stylistically, being sometimes Steinian, sometimes surrealist, sometimes merely immature

and arrogant. There are moments of extreme eroticism and sexual tension, but the promise is not sustained. The narrative, meant to be modern and unfettered, is just as often gratuitously obscure.

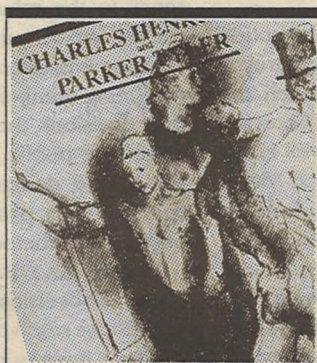
In addition, readers are assumed to have a certain amount of knowledge about the time and Greenwich Village and, particularly, the homosexual subculture. Watson's introduction helps, but more information is required for a complete understanding. Most readers will recognize the drag ball and easily explicate the novel's opening lines ("Well said the wolf to Little Red Riding Hood no sooner was Karel seated in the Round Table than the impossible happened. There before him stood a fairy prince and one of those mythological creatures known as Lesbians. won't you join our table? they said in sweet chorus.")

After a time in New York Ford went off to Paris, consorted with the likes of Gertrude Stein and Djuna Barnes and met the painter Pavel Tchelitchev, with whom he would spend the rest of his life. He also finished up THE YOUNG AND EVIL, then called LOVE AND JUMP BACK, and got it published by Jack Kahane's Obelisk Press in 1933. Tyler stayed in New

York, his shoes "peeling off," eating for free at an artists' club. In 1940 Ford and Tyler began publishing VIEW, "the Modern Magazine." Contributors included Piet Mondrian, Marcel Duchamp, Max Ernst, Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning and Robert Motherwell. Ford navigated the artistic waters so effectively that André Breton, who despised Americans and homosexuals, over-

looked Tyler and Ford's membership in both categories and made VIEW the unofficial organ of the Surrealists. Tyler established a reputation as a film critic, one of the first to use Freudian criticism; Ford maintained ties with the avant-garde through the sixties.

DESPITE THEIR contributions to literature, film and art, Ford and Tyler are seldom mentioned in the catalogs of famous homosexuals. Perhaps it was the Greenwich Village '20s, when, Tyler observed, "a homosexual, if he was artistic and intellectual, was just another bohemian," that eventuated their obscurity. Perhaps the obsession with masculinity has led to an assumption that there was little connection between American writers and the New York and Paris homosexual subcultures. Whatever led to their obscurity, perhaps GPNY's reprint edition of THE YOUNG AND EVIL will spur the rediscovery of homosexual men who were a part of the tremendously important literary and artistic scene of the '20s and '30s. More than anything else THE YOUNG AND EVIL is an artifact, evidence of a recent homosexual past that is decadent rather than sordid, of characters and a time as mysterious and alluring for modern gay men as Natalie Barney's Paris salon is for lesbians. •



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VIEWS

Unsettling news of bigotry and shame

TENNESSEANS HAVE HAD unsettling news this week.

Giles Countians are girding for the arrival of members of the Aryan Nation who are travelling to Pulaski — site of the 1865 founding of the Ku Klux Klan — for a march Saturday through the city's streets.

Admirably, Giles Countians are planning a counter-protest of their own: the 24-hour shut-down of local businesses that should effectively show the interlopers they are not welcome in Tennessee.

People in Nashville last weekend were horrified by the discovery of swastikas and anti-Semitic epithets and slogans painted on the outer walls of a synagogue which serves a large portion of the city's Jewish population, including several survivors of the Holocaust. The slurs and crude drawings were discovered during the celebration of the Jewish new year, Rosh Hashanah.

Thankfully, the synagogue continued its service to the community, cloaking the hate-filled invectives with canvas until a more permanent cleaning could begin.

Connecting these two events is the bigotry and hatred that is shared by the white supremacists and the anti-semites. The pledge of intolerance that breathes life into the Aryan Nation's coda of hate is filled with virulent anti-Semitism, racism and homophobia.

The obscenities and profanities of bigotry are far more damaging than those being fought so feverishly by members of the political right wing.

Yet those right wingers have remained oddly close-mouthed about bias crimes and bigotry.

Not so very long ago, the triumvirate of bigotry, hate and mistrust were given horrific new meaning by the actions of Hitler and his henchmen.

Some six million Jews throughout Europe were systematically gassed, murdered and burned in a misguided effort to eradicate the race from the face of the earth.

Several hundred thousand others endured the same fate because they were homosexual. The terrors of the Holocaust continue to be felt today.

A SCANT 50 YEARS LATER, the debasing actions by the cowardly anti-Semites in their attack on the synagogue last weekend are as horrible to lesbians and gay men as they are to members of the Jewish faith.

It is because we share a history of discrimination and mistreatment.

We are just as affronted by the plans by the Aryan Nation to march in our state this weekend. While they see Pulaski as their Mecca, they seem to forget that, in 1869, the Tennessee Legislature outlawed the Klan.

In fact, it was earlier in *this* century, in Georgia, that the modern-day Klan was born — out of a hatred and mistrust of blacks, Jews and Catholics.

Homosexuals are given no better consideration in the scheme of things envisioned by the white supremacists.

Bigotry directed at any group or any individual is wrong. It is profane. It is obscene.

And it should be stopped. •

Dare

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

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

October 5 - 12, 1989
Volume 2, Number 40

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Dare logo designed by
RUSEL BROWN



Dare is published weekly by
Pyramid Light & Power
Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422
(615) 327-Dare

ADVERTISING

Please phone for ad rates and information.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$32 per year, \$16 for six months.
Postal Service: send address changes to:
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Nashville, TN 37204-0422

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ARCHIVES

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SOAPBOX

Bush-whacked again

by CAROLE CUNNINGHAM

Staff Writer

IT CAME AS NO SURPRISE that the Bush administration would not be submitting a brief in support of an Illinois law that requires abortion clinics to have facilities that provide the same level of services and support as major hospitals.

On the surface, the law appears to regulate health care quality. But, in fact, it does much more: it places such an economic burden on existing abortion clinics that most would go out of business were the statute upheld.

Those who oppose the law argue that regulating clinics in this way would effectively take away the right to an abortion by forcing the majority of clinics who provide abortions to either shut down or stop providing abortion services and counseling. Meaning that once again, as in the pre-ROE V. WADE era, abortions would be available only to those who could afford the astronomical fees necessary to pay for the non-abortion-related medical equipment the statute requires clinics to purchase.

The Supreme Court therefore has an opportunity this term to either chip away at ROE V. WADE by allowing states to further regulate the abortion industry or the Court may shatter completely what remains of the right to an abortion by ruling that the Illinois law cannot be unconstitutional because women have no constitutional right to abortion.

The President hopes to support the notion that the Supreme Court's judicial integrity is beyond the persuasive reach of even the Commander in Chief, a vision of the Court the Bush administration exploited so well in the minds of the public after its ruling on "desecration" of the flag. The President made much of his outrage and helplessness in impacting the decisions of the Court, pleading passionately with Congress to circumvent the ruling.

In the Illinois case, Bush knows the Court will either rule in a way that maintains the status quo or that renders the rights secured by ROE V. WADE either null and void or so beyond the reach of poor women and even middle class women that the right will only remain a right of the privileged. And Bush does not want anyone to believe the Court largely appointed by his predecessor, Ronald

Reagan, can be influenced by the opinion of the public or the president. If the public thought they could influence the Court, Bush would find himself in the uncomfortable position of having to take sides in matters he would much rather have substantially out of his hands, particularly at a time when abortion rights activists have successfully made abortion the main campaign issue in a number of city and state elections.

That most Americans believe the Supreme Court rules "objectively" about matters of the law without attention to public opinion, values or mores, is a latent product of high school civics classes in which students were inspired to believe the three sturdy branches of our Federal government were kept in harmonic alignment by a system of "checks and balances." Within that model, the Supreme Court stood as the staunch protector of all that this country holds sacred (literally), immune to the politics influencing the elected officers of the state, immune to the whimsy of public opinion. The Court seemed to commune with a Truth bigger and better than the lowly senator and entirely inaccessible to the average citizen or foot soldier. In Plato's republic, they would have been like the philosopher-kings.

On the abortion issue, anti-abortion activists have worked successfully to create a sense in the mind of the public (and the justices are as public as you and me) that abortion is passionately opposed by an overwhelming number of passionate citizens. In their decisions, the Court weighs what it perceives the public historically and presently values and denigrates: read the HARDWICK decision for a painful lesson in the Court's political and rhetorical strategies.

THERE MAY BE a certain comfort in believing the decisions of the Supreme Court are beyond the reach of our influence. That way, we don't have to reach at all. But when the "long arm of the law" starts reaching into your bedroom and into your body, you may wish you had taken that step you're not taking now, taken it for women, taken it for you, taken it for justice.

You may wish you'd taken it to the streets when you're being taken to jail. •



— DARE CARTOON BY LESLIE HAINES

Frank affair drags on

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

While an openly gay member of congress struggles for his professional and political life, the prostitute who dealt the crippling blow continues a one-person media campaign to further sully the representative's reputation.

U.S. Rep Barney Frank (D-Mass.) remains embroiled in the controversy over his admission of an 18-month relationship with prostitute Steve Gobie.

Despite early support from both leaders in Congress and within the Democratic Party — and polls showing strong support for the representative in his home district — support for Frank on some fronts seems to be eroding.

However, leaders of the nation's two largest lesbian and gay advocacy and political organizations joined last week in support of Frank's decision to remain in office and to allow the House ethics committee to conduct its investigation.

Leaders of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) voiced continued support of Frank despite the flap.

The controversy began in late August when, during the congressional recess, the fifth-term congressman admitted that he had hired Gobie as his personal assistant, only to fire him two years ago when he discovered Gobie had apparently been selling sex from Frank's Washington apartment.

Frank's admission came after Gobie claimed, in a report published in the archconservative Unification Church-owned WASHINGTON TIMES, 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 lesbian and gay newspaper based in the nation's capital.

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.

Voters in Frank's home district, in separate polls, showed overwhelming initial support for their representative. Congressional and Democratic leaders also expressed support for Frank when news of his relationship with Gobie was published.

Since then, however, growing skepticism over Frank's ability to effectively represent his constituents has prompted some defections, most notably THE BOSTON GLOBE.

Long considered a staunch supporter and ally of Frank's congressional agenda, the paper, in an editorial, called on Frank to resign his office.

Subsequent polls have indicated that loyalty among Frank's constituents is eroding.

Gobie further fueled the flames of controversy with an appearance on the syndicated GERALDO RIVERA show. On that show, Gobie said Frank used his influence to fix parking tickets for him.

Charges of ticket-fixing notwithstanding, leaders for NGLTF and HRCF say they will continue to support Frank.

"Barney Frank is a crucial advocate for lesbian and gay causes, as well as many other important issues such as broad civil rights, arms control, civil liberties, elderly concerns, housing and child welfare," said NGLTF executive director Urvashi Vaid.

"We need him to stay in office for a long, long time," she added.

Tim McFeeley, Vaid's counterpart at HRCF, echoed the sentiment: "Some have suggested Barney will be less effective for us and others because of the uproar surrounding his involvement with a prostitute," McFeeley said. "I think they are wrong; after the ethics committee has completed its work, we will be able to count on Barney as much as ever."

"Barney is entitled to his day before the ethics committee," Vaid said. "The media has saturated the press and the airwaves on this. Nothing new has happened, so they are now even writing stories about what other newspapers have written." •

...Heart Strings grosses \$156,000

• continued from page 1

"Somewhere Out There," were Nashville Ballet's Anne Finch, Jerry Noone, Karen Porter and Keith Scheaffer. The ballet was choreographed by Nashville Ballet's artistic director Dane LaFontsee.

Stopping the show was a rousing, foot-stomping rendition of "His Eye is on the Sparrow," performed by the national company's Eve L. Willis Tate, accompanied by singers from the First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill; Tabernacle Baptist Church; Mt. Gilead Baptist Church; the Youth United Community Mass Choir; and Brooks Memorial United Methodist Church Choir.

At song's end, with the audience still in the throes of hand-clapping jubilation, Pearl cried, "Magnify it!" which brought the cast back onstage for a reprise.

Bridges said that Pearl's statement that she "was honored to be asked to take part in this event" seemed to be the evening's undercurrent.

"I felt very good about the evening and about the mix of people it attracted. Everyone seemed proud to be taking part. That's the kind of thing that makes me feel so good about it," Bridges said.

Thursday night's performance was pre-

ceded by a cocktail buffet in the Tennessee State Museum, located on TPAC's lower level, and was followed by a champagne cast party.

Bridges said that he expected the Nashville performance would have a net income of around \$60,000.

Some 85% of the net receipts will be returned to Nashville to benefit Nashville CARES, Vanderbilt AIDS Project and Minority AIDS Outreach, all of which provide AIDS services to the community.

"The Atlanta office has a minimum of 40 days and a maximum of 90 days set for checks to be sent to local agencies," Bridges said.

HEART STRINGS: The National Tour was mounted in Atlanta after two earlier productions proved local successes. The national tour is underwritten by the Design Industries Foundation for AIDS (DIFFA) and will travel to 30 cities during the next six months, covering almost 25,000 miles across the United States.

Memphis and Nashville were the third and fourth stops, respectively, on the tour that will take the cast from Atlanta to Dallas, from Denver to San Francisco, eventually concluding in New York City next March.

HEART STRINGS is the only national fund-raising effort of its kind. •

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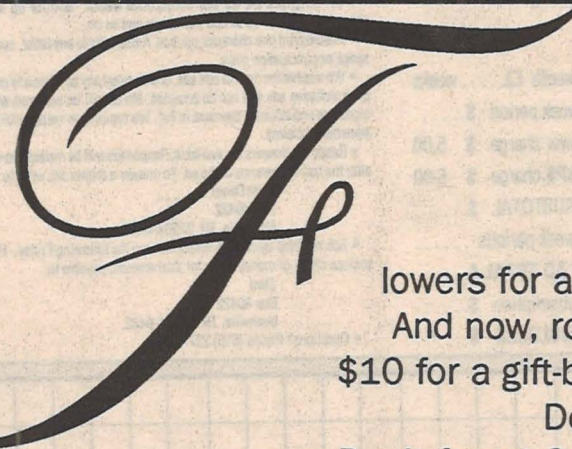
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MARKET

Announcements

• **IT'S A SCREAM!** The Alternative Gift Shop and Resource Center has National Coming Out Day tee shirts & bumper stickers, other fun "OUT"erwear. 168 2nd Ave North, Nashville. 615 244-7346.

• Owen-Edmond psychic readings. Palms and cards. By appointment. Nashville. 615 871-4420.

• 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:** Beautiful walnut executive desk. \$210. Nashville. 615 859-9302 after 5pm.

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Personal

• All you wanted was a burger and a beer and now you have a Texas wife with two baby boys. I know this wasn't what you planned, but thank God you love me anyway. Happy two years, sweetheart. I love you.

• A year **H** and **A** **P** half **P** is **Y** only the start. **A** Here's **N** to **N** **80** I more! **V** One **E** at **R** a **S** time, **A** baby. I **R** love **Y** you! **P**. Watterwood! & friend.

• Can't wait for our new love nest, Puss. Have you thought up names for the animals? Personally, I'm looking forward to seeing you mow the lawn and take out the trash and fix the gutters.

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

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

QUOTES

Robin Givens has a few questions

"See, Mike [Tyson] was hanging out on the set quite a bit for a while and a rumor was going around the Paramount lot that he was interested in a girl around here. But there was another rumor, that Mike Tyson and I were lovers and the girl just a front. When you're in bed at night, that hurts. People sayin' you're homosexual and you're not, that's nasty."

— **TV chat-fest maven Arsenio Hall whining about people thinking he's queer. Arsenio didn't say who was in the bed that hurt.**

"I think he's probably feeling a lot more pain than any of us will ever feel in our whole lives, and I think that some people find a lot of glee in that."

— **Judd Nelson to Arsenio "That hurts" Hall, on the Rob Lowe sex scandal. Not to worry, Arsenio, Judd's promised to not say a word about those Mike Tyson tapes. Unless his career appears to be on the skids and THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER offers him money.**

"The screening for first captain begins the day cadets walk into this place. Each one is constantly measured militarily, academically and athletically. Kristin's appointment has nothing to do with gender. This girl is a piece of work."

— **Col. James Hawthorne, director of public affairs at the U.S. Military Academy, on the appointment of Kristin Baker as first captain, West Point's highest honor for cadets.**

"1. Call your lawyer; 2. Explain to her receptionist that she won't get AIDS from talking to you on the telephone; 3. Send your lover on that nine-month Antarctic vacation she or he has always wanted to take; 4. Start drinking Coors publicly; 5. Call Liz Smith and get her to write that you were seen at a benefit mauling some young star of the opposite sex in a corner; 6. Renew your NATIONAL REVIEW subscription for three more years, and drop a note to Pat and Bill saying, 'It's just not true'; 7. Call THE WASHINGTON TIMES and offer to spill the dirt on everyone else; 8. Get your name onto an invitation for a Republican Party fundraiser, and make a point of playing blues guitar with Lee Atwater; 9. Go on 'Live at Five' and tell all to that nice Sue Simmons; 10. Call Amy Pagnozzi at THE NEW YORK POST, she's hungry for another scoop."

— **Ten things you should do when you're unwillingly dragged out of the closet by some new magazine in New York City — advice from our WEEK on dealing with being on the peek-a-bow list.**

"The only thing my mother did that I swore I would never do to my children was make me

wear mother-daughter dresses. And since my father never had a son, he used to make me play golf with him. Mother-daughter dresses and golf were about the worst things they did to me."

— **Well-adjusted actress Mary Steenburgen, on growing up in North Little Rock, Ark.**

"If you think wealth determines genius and poverty otherwise, then look at Dan Quayle and look at me."

— **Jesse Jackson, on the obvious.**

"In the Jewish way in love and marriage, Maurice Lamm tells us that 'the Bible prohibits homosexual intercourse and labels it an abomination.' He refers to Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13. In summarizing Jewish law he said, 'when a man indulges in homosexual tendencies he commits to-*evah*, an abomination."

— **A letter to THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER, from Antioch, Tennessee, charmer John Mason.**

"They're scared of me. I've always said, 'Honey, don't get near my ass.' I'm going to go after some fans and stalk them. I have an Uzi. They'll be so dead they won't know what hit them."

— **Madonna-squeeze and comedian Sandra Bernhard, explaining why she's not at all worried by the recent spate of threats to celebrities from deranged fans.**

"I don't really hang around actors. Actor personalities, those people who do imitations all the time, it drives me crazy. The people who do accents, who sort of sing all the time? I hate that."

— **Academy Award winner Jodie Foster, on why she doesn't date actors.**

"What you have to remember is this: They're much smarter than men are. And they don't play fair."

— **Film star Jack Nicholson, on women.**

"Why is the Barney Frank story such a big deal? In following the coverage that appeared in THE WASHINGTON TIMES and THE WASHINGTON POST, one would think Frank's peccadillos threatened the very survival of our federal government! ... When HUD and S&L scandals go unnoticed for years, the bottom line for the media should be to focus far less on the private sex lives of public officials and work harder to unearth those who are screwing in public."

— **Don Michaels in his "Kisses and Curses" column in a recent edition of THE WASHINGTON BLADE, a lesbian and gay newspaper in the nation's capital.**



Arsenio Hall: "That's nasty." — DARE FILE PHOTO

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