

Our quarterly
book issue!
Pages, page 5

Dare

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 48

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

DECEMBER 1 - 7, 1989

Texas judicial panel censures Hampton

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Exactly one year to the day he sentenced a convicted killer to a lighter sentence because the victims were gay, Dallas Judge Jack Hampton was formally censured Tuesday, November 28, by the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

The action by the Commission was the strongest action the panel could take, short of removing Hampton from the bench. Lesbian and gay activists in Dallas have vowed to work toward Hampton's defeat at the polls when the Republican judge faces re-election next year.

John Thomas of the Dallas Gay Alliance, which has worked to oust Hampton since the controversy began, said his organization will continue efforts to have Hampton removed from the bench come election time.

Hampton has been at the center of the swirling controversy since the publication last December of homophobic remarks he made to a DALLAS TIMES-HERALD reporter. Hampton gave convicted killer Richard Bednarski a 30-year sentence instead of life imprisonment sought by prosecutors because, he told a reporter, the man's two victims — Tommy Lee Trimble and Lloyd Griffin — were homosexuals.

"I put prostitutes and gays at about the same level, and I'd be hard put to give somebody life for killing a prostitute," Hampton said. "I didn't much care for queers cruising the streets picking up teen-age boys. I've got a teenage boy."

Hampton further indicated he would have given Bednarski a harsher sentence if his victims had been "a couple of housewives out shopping, not hurting anybody."

Hampton's published remarks prompted an "outpouring of outrage" according to DGA's Thomas.

"The incident was covered extensively by all the media. Almost all call-in radio shows in the Dallas area



John Boswell, author of *CHRISTIANITY, SOCIAL TOLERANCE AND HOMOSEXUALITY*, won the 1981 American Book Award for history. The book ranks second on *Dare's* list of the top ten lesbian and gay books of the 1980s. See *Eightysomething*, page 6. — DARE FILE PHOTO

last December dealt with it and letters to the editor filled the pages of the *TIMES-HERALD* and the *DALLAS MORNING NEWS*," he said.

Complaints filed against Hampton were first heard last January during hearings conducted by the Texas Commission on Judicial Conduct. No public announcement of any action on the part of the Commission was made until Tuesday, exactly one year after the close of the Bednarski trial.

During the ensuing weeks after his remarks were first published, Hampton issued a public apology "for [his] choice of words," but refused to apologize for the sentence given Bednarski. •

Memphis unveils center Gay & Lesbian Community Center opens

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Longtime Memphis civil rights activist Novella Smith-Arnold will deliver the keynote address at Sunday's gala grand opening ceremonies of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC).

Festivities are planned to start at 4 p.m., Sunday, December 3, at the newly-opened center which is located at 1291 Madison Avenue in the Midtown area. The event will begin with a ribbon cutting ceremony featuring community dignitaries and will be followed by speakers representing various lesbian and gay social and political organizations, according to Allen Cook, editor of *GAZE*, the organizational newsletter of the Memphis Gay Coalition.

Smith-Arnold, long noted for her involvement in the civil rights and human rights movements, will be the featured speaker at the event.

"She's a community volunteer/activist of the first order," Cook explained. "She's always been recognized as a champion of the civil rights movement and has long embraced underdog causes."

In addition, Smith-Arnold was one of three recent candidates for the Memphis City Council seat vacated by Ricky Peete. Peete was forced to resign his seat on the

Council after he was found guilty of accepting a bribe in an FBI undercover sting operation.

Representatives from all lesbian and gay organizations in Memphis have been invited to take part in the event, Cook said.

The formal grand opening of the MGLCC follows more than three years of efforts to establish such a space in the Bluff City. During 1989, under the auspices of the Memphis Gay Coalition, the MGLCC board was incorporated to secure the center. In October, a lease was signed on the Midtown location.

The center has been open for about two months. During that time a number of meetings and social activities have been scheduled there.

Funding for the center will come from those groups which use it, as well as from donations, memberships and fundraisers. The center may be reserved for one day, on a first-come, first-served basis for a \$35 fee. Groups interested in using the center must be approved by the MGLCC Board. Rules and applications for use of the building are available at the center.

The Memphis Gay Coalition was the first organization to commit to holding some of its meetings at the center, including its monthly Gay-Rap sessions and its December 18 Christmas dinner. •

450 gather for Creating Change Conference

Thirty-four states represented at second annual NGLTF confab

from STAFF REPORTS

Some 450 gay and lesbian activists from 34 states gathered in Washington in mid-November for the second annual Creating Change Conference, organized and sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

The conference was highlighted by a special NGLTF award presented to the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus for its work to pass the state gay rights bill (signed into law by Gov. Michael Dukakis November 15); a day-long Fundraising Institute designed specifically for gay and lesbian organizations; a demonstration at the White House to protest govern-

mental policies of excluding and discharging lesbians and gay men from the military; three keynote addresses and 48 workshops.

"The most exciting part of the conference for all of us on the NGLTF staff is that it has become the annual gathering of the leading grassroots political activists in our movement nationwide," said NGLTF executive director Urvashi Vaid. "When the audience in workshops is as distinguished as the panelists, it makes for very dynamic discussions."

The 48 workshop sessions over three days focused on violence, family issues, media organizing, organizational development, pri-

vacy and sodomy law repeal, lobbying and constituent organizing.

Participants took part in a rally calling upon the government to reassess its military policies regarding lesbians and gay men. Leading the protest was Perry Watkins, the former Army officer ousted because he was gay.

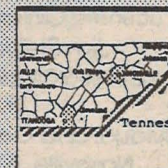
Washington Mayor Marion Barry proclaimed November 12 as "Perry Watkins Day" in the nation's capital.

Next year's Creating Change Conference is set for November 9-12, 1990, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A local host committee will be spearheaded by the Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council of Minneapolis. •

I N S I D E

Dare this week

People and places
all over Tennessee.
Local Color, page 4.



*Eightysomething: a look
back at the books of the 1980s.*
Centerpiece, page 6.

Mail! Does Ann Landers
get mail, or what?
Loose Lips, page 12.





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D A T E S

Just like clockwork

Chattanooga

Sundays
Lesbian & Gay CoDA Co-Dependents Anonymous. Reflections, Harrison. 12:30pm. Info (615) 267-7824.
Metropolitan Community Church Worship service, Unitarian Church. 6:30pm.

Mondays
Chattanooga CARES Closed support group. 6:30pm. Info (615) 266-2422.

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

Saturdays
Gay/Lesbian AA No-smoke meeting. Unitarian Church. 7pm.

Clarksville

Thursdays
OSGL Austin Peay State University Organization for Support of Gays & Lesbians, group for lesbians and gay men. Rm 4, Archwood, APSU. 4pm. Info (615) 648-7107.

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.
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 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.

Fridays
Gay Gratitude Group Alcoholics Anonymous. MCC / Knoxville, 1320 North Central. Noon.
Lesbian Codpendents Anonymous At aRK offices. 8pm. Info (615) 933-8393.

Memphis

Mondays
Gay Alternative Hour Radio show, WEVL-FM 90, 6-7pm.
Memphis Gay Coalition Business meeting, 1st Monday. Rm A, Memphis Public Library, Peabody & Maclean. Info (901) 324-4297.
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.
Al-Anon Closed meeting. MCC. 6:30pm.
Nashville Women's Alliance Meeting at the Book Oasis, 2824 Dogwood Pl. 3rd and 4th Tuesdays only. 7:30pm. Info (615) 883-4833.
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) Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

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.

Tri-Cities

Sundays
Metropolitan Community Church Worship service, 7pm. Holston Valley Unitarian 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 Coalition. For PWAs, ARC, and HIV+ in southwest Virginia, including Bristol, TN. 3rd Thursday only. Info (703) 985-0131.

Your nonprofit event can be listed free in Dates. Write to **Dare**, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422, or phone 615 327-Dare and leave a message. Please include information about time, location, cost, sponsor, and a contact person's name with address and/or phone number for verification. Deadline noon Tuesday for publication next Friday.

Big events



Friday, December 1

WORLD AIDS DAY Observance University of Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Student Union AIDS information booth at university center, bookstore level, Knoxville. 9am-4pm. Info (615) 595-8686.

Saturday, December 2

Buddy Training aids Response Knoxville (aRK). 9am-5pm. \$15 registration. 1320 N Central, Knoxville. Info (615) 523-AIDS.
Craft Show Women artisans, sponsored by Nashville Women's Alliance, at Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. Free admission. 2-6pm. Info (615) 269-9670.

Sunday, December 3

Interfaith Service Remembrance and Hope for those with AIDS. Arthur Wiener, homilist. Sponsored by Knoxville Ministerial Association. At St. John's Episcopal Church, 413 W Cumberland Av, Knoxville. 3pm.
Benefit For Nashville Hospice House for AIDS. At 5 Points Depot, 103 S 11th St, Nashville. \$5. Shows 9:30pm, 11pm. Info (615) 228-6988.

Tuesday, December 5

Holiday Party Vanderbilt Lambda Association. At Peabody President's House, Edgehill & 18th Av South, Nashville. 7-9pm.

Saturday, December 9

Christmas Party Gay and Lesbian Student Union, University of Tennessee/Knoxville. 8pm. Info (615) 595-8686.

Saturday, December 16

Benefit The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus. Benefits Gay Cable Network/Nashville. At War Memorial Auditorium, Nashville. Tickets \$10, \$13 advance, \$12, \$15 at door. 7pm. Info (615) 254-8250.
Benefit Chattanooga Gay and Lesbian Alliance. Chattanooga. 7pm. Donation. Please bring toy for holiday distribution by Chattanooga Fire Dept. Info (615) 867-5911 or 267-7824.

Sunday, December 17

Fundraiser For Music City Sports Association. At Warehouse 28, Nashville. Info (615) 385-9689.

CROSS COUNTRY

compiled by **MARK LAWRENCE**

Staff Writer

Sullivan condemns suicide report

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan has agreed with Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.) in condemning his own department's "Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide," which includes a section on suicide among lesbian and gay youth.

Sullivan said those portions of the report which deal with gay youth "run contrary" to the aim of "advancing traditional family values." In a written response to Dannemeyer's demands that Sullivan denounce the report, the HHS Secretary stated that "the views expressed in the paper entitled 'Gay Male and Lesbian Youth Suicide' do not in any way represent my personal beliefs or the policy of this department."

"Federal policies must be crafted with great care so as to strengthen rather than undermine the institution of the family," wrote Sullivan. "In my opinion, the views expressed in the paper run contrary to that aim." •



Supporters of the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men take part in a march in Raleigh, N.C., site of the group's 1990 conference... — DARE FILE PHOTO

Southeastern Conference plans March confab

RALEIGH, N.C. — Plans are being finalized for the 15th Annual Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men to be held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel on March 22-25, 1990.

The Conference Steering Committee accepted suggestions for workshops and speakers through today. Six major speakers will be chosen on the basis of their activism in areas such as religion, legal issues, lesbian/gay history, business and the military. Workshops will reflect the conference theme of "Working to Strengthen Our Southeastern Communities."

For more information on the conference, contact SECLGM at (919) 833-1209. •

Hungarian officials apologize for raid

BUDAPEST, Hungary — The Hungarian government has officially apologized to

Homeros Lambda, a lesbian and gay organization, for an unauthorized raid on the group's headquarters last March.

Police entered the headquarters, knocked down the receptionist and took two gay men into custody. Police officials claim the raid was initiated by district policemen acting without authorization.

Homeros Lambda is the first Eastern European lesbian and gay group to be official recognized by its government. •

Skinheads convicted in gay beating

WASHINGTON — Two self-proclaimed Skinhead gang members were convicted last week on charges of assault with intent to kill and armed robbery in the September, 1988, beating of a District of Columbia gay man.

The convictions of Mark Hyder and David McCall came at the end of a four-day trial in D.C. Superior Court and some two months after their victim, Rodney Johnson, filed a multi-million dollar civil lawsuit against eight members of the gang.

Members of the gang had engaged in a weekend of beatings and robberies of gay men in the Dupont Circle area of the District, including the attack on Johnson. The suit is the first of its kind ever filed by a gay person against members of the Skinheads movement. •

Wendy's apologizes to American Family Assoc.

NEW YORK — The Wendy's fast food chain has apologized for advertising during a rerun of NBC's L.A. LAW which featured a lawsuit by a gay athlete. The apology came after a campaign by the American Family Association (AFA).

AFA founder Donald Wildmon asked members of the organization to send complaints to Wendy's about its advertising on the show. Wendy's sent a form letter to those who complained. "Obviously, the particular episode of this show was not consistent with the kind of programming we wish to be associated with. Moreover, Wendy's tries to sponsor programs we feel have a wide appeal to the family viewing audience," states the letter. •

Gay Coast Guard officer discharged

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Ricardo Huertas, a Petty Officer in the Coast Guard, was discharged last month after telling superiors that he is gay. Huertas plans to file suit against the Coast Guard because of the discharge.

Following the recommendation of a Coast Guard review board, Admiral Paul Yost, Jr., the Coast Guard Commandant, ordered Huertas' discharge as a "class-three homosexual." A class-three homosexual is anyone who admits to being gay but has not been charged with engaging in homosexual sexual activities.

Huertas acknowledged being gay last January while making a complaint to his superiors about derogatory statements made by his shipmates on the cutter RUSH. •



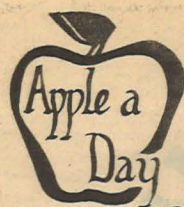
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(615) 320-7142**LOCAL COLOR**compiled from **STAFF REPORTS****Clarksville****Flanders resigns OSGL post**

Citing "differences of opinion," Alan Flanders, co-president of the recently-organized Organization for the Support of Gays and Lesbians (OSGL) at Clarksville's Austin Peay State University, has resigned.

Flanders told *Dare* that he had resigned his office as well as his membership in the group because of these "differences." Flanders had been instrumental in organizing OSGL at the start of the 1989-90 school year. An organization for lesbian and gay students at APSU had not been active since 1980.

Earlier, in 1979, a case filed against the Tennessee Board of Regents by APSU lesbian and gay students had forced a federal court ruling that said state universities and colleges could not prohibit such groups. •

Jackson**Pro-choice workshop next week**

A pro-choice political skills workshop will be held in Jackson Saturday, December 9, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Jackson Civic Center, 400 South Highland.

Sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Tennessee and Tennesseans Keeping Abortion Legal and Safe (TKALS), the agenda includes a review of local legislators' voting records on abortion, an overview of anti-abortion legislation in other states, and a discussion of anti-choice legislation expected to be introduced during the 1990 session of the Tennessee legislature.

Area legislators have been invited to meet with participants for an informal discussion during the lunch hour, according to ACLU's Hedy Weinberg.

For more information, contact ACLU at (615) 320-7142 or TKALS at (615) 327-0821. •

Knoxville**Interfaith AIDS service set**

"A Service of Hope and Remembrance for Those Affected by AIDS," an interfaith service sponsored by the Knoxville Ministerial Association, is set for Sunday, December 3, at 3 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, 413 W. Cumberland Avenue. The service recognizes World AIDS Day, proclaimed December 1 by the World Health Organization.

"Through the service on December 3, our community will be provided with an opportunity to express their care and concern for those who are presently affected by and living with AIDS as well as for those who grieve for the loss of life resulting from AIDS," a spokesperson said.

Congregations participating include Baptist, Methodist, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian, Unitarian, United Church of Christ, Roman Catholic, Episcopalian and Metropolitan Community Church. Rabbi Arthur Weiner of Heska Amuna will present the message. •

NCCJ honors Galloway

Rev. Bob Galloway, pastor of the Knoxville congregation of Metropolitan Community Church, will be among those honored Monday night, December 4, at the religious service

awards banquet of the National Council of Christians and Jews.

Tickets are \$15 per person and reservations may be made by calling (615) 523-AIDS. •

Memphis**'Men's Work' topic of GayRap**

"Men's Work," was the topic discussed by those taking part in November's GayRap session, sponsored by the Memphis Gay Coalition at the new Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison Avenue.

Representatives of the Tamauga Men's Council, the first formally-organized group of men in the Mid-South committed to the men's movement, led the discussion.

"The Men's Council is a group of men bound together by a common thread. It is held together not by the structures of a rigid creed or code, but by the common understanding that we are all on a quest. Our quest is a personal search for knowledge and understanding of our physical, intellectual, psychological and spiritual nature," said Kerrel Ard, a TMC member. •

Nashville**Activists sought for Georgia demo**

Lesbian and gay activists in Tennessee are being asked to volunteer to take part in a pair of demonstrations at the Georgia State Capitol in January, according to Deborah Burks.

Two demonstrations — Monday and Tuesday, January 8-9 — are being planned. The first will protest Georgia's sodomy law which led to the landmark *HARDWICK v. BOWERS* decision. The second, at the headquarters of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), will call upon the CDC to alter its definition of AIDS, Burks said.

A planning meeting will be held Saturday, December 9, at a site still to be determined, to form a Tennessee delegation to go to Atlanta for the protests. For details, call (615) 385-4283. •

MCSA plans holiday benefit

Members of the Music City Sports Association (MCSA) will host a holiday benefit performance at Nashville's Warehouse 28, 2529 Franklin Road on Sunday, December 17.

A spokesperson for MCSA said two teams from Huntsville, Ala., as well as another independent team from Nashville, have tentatively committed to participating in MCSA's softball league next spring.

For details about MCSA, call Wayne Prince at (615) 385-9689. •

Met Home designer at Sprintz

Ben Lloyd, editorial marketing director for METROPOLITAN HOME magazine, will appear next week at Sprintz Furniture Showroom, to present "The Magic Room," a seminar about the magazine's "Nashville: 1990" model room at the retailer's 325 White Bridge Road location. Lloyd will host three seminars as he shares the origins of his design as well as upcoming design trends for the new decade. Seating is limited; for reservations, call (615) 352-5912. The seminars will be held Friday and Saturday, December 8 and 9. •

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Pages

Winter, 1989, Book Section

Sneak peek: Book previews

compiled by **SHERRE DRYDEN**
Book Editor

FICTION

• **AFTER THE FIRE.** Jane Rule. Tallahassee: Naiad, 1989. After being dismissed by her lover of eight years as "boring," Karen Tasuki goes to an island off the coast of Vancouver determined to learn how to live alone. Karen meets Red Smith, who has lived on the island for four years, keeping house for three other women. Karen's absorption in Red's life and the lives of the women Red cares for lead her to form new definitions of family and community for herself.

• **CARAVAGGIO SHAWL.** Samuel M. Steward. Boston: Alyson, November 1989. \$8.95 paper.

Steward's latest novel featuring Gertrude Stein and Alice Toklas as detectives has the two women step into the Paris underworld to track down a murderer and art thief. American writer Johnny McAndrews rounds out the cast of characters, providing valuable clues from the Parisian homosexual subculture.

• **CRAZY.** Carolyn Weathers. Clothespin Fever, 1989. \$8.95 paper.

• **DUCKS.** Helen Hodgman. NY: Harmony, October 1989. \$16.95.

Moss and Hazel are a lesbian couple and the central characters in this novel set in contemporary south London. The story moves between their current lives, Hazel's mysterious past in Australia and North America, and the past and current lives of secondary characters: Moss's son Elvis, Elvis's loony and destitute father Harold, the members of Hazel and Moss's feminist collective and Walter and Daphne, parents of teenaged Rupert and owners of a dog named Angst.

• **EYE OF A HURRICANE.** Ruthann Robson. Ithaca: Firebrand, November 1989. \$18.95, \$8.95 paper.

This first collection of short stories addresses issues like lesbianism, feminism, single parenthood and terminal illness.

• **FINALE: SHORT STORIES OF MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE.** Edited by Michael Nava. Boston: Alyson, 1989. \$8.95 paper.

• **FRONTIER INVENTORY.** Nancy Hertzberg. NY: Simon & Schuster, October 1989. \$18.95.

• **HUMID PITCH.** Cheryl Clarke. Ithaca, NY: Firebrand, October 1989. \$18.95, \$8.95 paper.

In her third book of poetry, Clarke unearths mythic tales of women of color, triumphant lesbians, ambivalent men, slave women and children, writing to the rhythms of black music.

• **LIFTING BELLY.** Gertrude Stein. Edited by Rebecca Mark. Tallahassee: Naiad, 1989. \$14.95, \$8.95 paper. Gertrude Stein's exuberant, whimsical erotic poem. Read it read it read it.

• **NAMING OUR DESTINY: NEW AND SELECTED POEMS.** June Jordan. Thunder's Mouth, December 1989. \$24.95, \$12.95 paper.

Poetry written during the past 30 years, including many previously uncollected poems.

• **OTHER SAPPHO.** Ellen Frye. Ithaca: Firebrand, December 1989. \$18.95, \$8.95 paper.

A young lesbian slave named Lykaina undertakes an odyssey from Sparta to Lesbos, in search of Sappho and her school of poetry.

• **PERSONAL DISPATCHES: WRITERS CONFRONT AIDS.** Edited by John Preston. NY: St. Martin's, November 1989. \$17.95.

Fiction and nonfiction by writers, activists and AIDS

• continued on page 8

A spirited first novel

A VISITATION OF SPIRITS. Randall Kenan. New York: Grove Press, 1989. 272 pages. \$17.95.

reviewed by **JOE MAROHL**

Staff Writer

A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD boy goes into the woods, carrying the makeshift, nearly by-the-book implements of satanic ritual. Haunted by the Jesus of the American south, who hates queers, the boy intends to offer himself up to the other side.

The boy sacrifices a kitten, lacking the resources to sacrifice a human infant. Even as he acts, he suspects the ritual is futile, yet it is that very doubt that succeeds in summoning to his side a small circus of hideous fiends. They command him to strip naked and steal his grandfather's gun.

As events unfold, what begins as a matter-of-fact case of demonic possession ends as an apocalyptic vision of the history and destiny of African Americans since the Civil War.

In his first novel, A VISITATION OF SPIRITS, Randall Kenan creates a spellbinding parable of sexual guilt and spiritual warfare set against the realistic backdrop of a black community in the backwoods of North Carolina. In addition to the cleverness of the novel's premise, Kenan shows a pitch-perfect sense of the holy war experienced by young men of a conservative religious upbringing who happen also to be homosexual.

No less impressive is Kenan's masterful construction of the narrative. Despite complexities like shifting points of view and the anachronistic juxtaposition of the events of two long and hair-raising days seventeen months apart, the novel is charmingly straightforward, though not "artless," and unexpectedly simple.

Kenan uses two dates during which the most dramatic events occur, December 8, 1985, and April 30, 1984; but the story spans four generations of the Cross family, the most revered black family in Tims Creek. The two dates correlate to the two central figures of the novel: Jimmy Greene, a Baptist minister and widower who sacrifices his own ambition to fulfill his family's ambition for him, and his rebellious younger cousin, Horace Cross, whose alienation from the community and himself drives him to desperate and blasphemous acts.

The Reverend James Greene lives among the dead. On December 8, 1985, he is driving his great-aunt Ruth and great-uncle Zeke to visit a relative dying in the hospital. Their reminiscences collide and blend with Jimmy's.

He remembers his wife Anne, a beautiful

northern woman, intelligent, never wholly his and dead at age 37. He struggles with his love/hate for the monolithic community, which in ensuring the survival of the family and race thus far, has grown strong and sadly intolerant of diversity within itself. Jimmy struggles more specifically with the thought of his cousin Horace, who is beyond his help

— beyond the reach of Grace as he understands it.

Most of Horace Cross's adventure occurs in the early morning of April 30, the previous year. It is a mesmerizing bit of hell-raising.

After summoning up the forces of evil and destruction, Horace encounters Dickensian reenactment of

*What begins as
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Americans.*

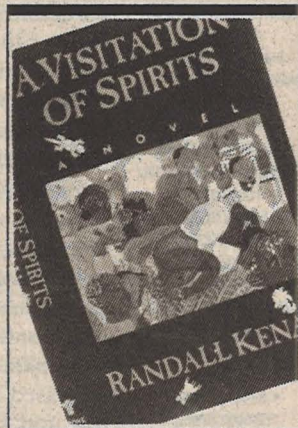
events of his past, a death and resurrection in the pulpit of his cousin's church, a talking buffalo in a white dress and gold spectacles, a pale-faced doppelgänger. The hallucinogenic ride ends with a confrontation with his righteous cousin Jimmy in a schoolyard, a confrontation that is the hidden seed of the entire novel.

There are parts of this novel which outshine the whole — or, at least, leave separate impressions.

I refer particularly to a Baptist-style witches' sabbath as envisioned by a sixteen-year-old Goodman Brown. I refer also to some of the novel's realistic scenes — Kenan's sensuous evocation of hog-killing in the country, and a memorable episode in a service station wherein a little girl shows an old woman how to play Pac-Man.

It is easy to see that Kenan combines the influence of other American writers with his own voice. The stamp of American regionalism is also very evident. The beginning and the end of the novel are reminiscent of Sherwood Anderson's WINESBURG, OHIO. The stream-of-consciousness ruminations on history, culture and individual worth remind me of Toni Morrison's use of the technique. The fever-pitched religious atmosphere is a perfect synthesis of James Baldwin and Flannery O'Connor.

BUT COMPARISONS LIKE THESE are risky, usually embarrassing, sometimes insulting, to the writer himself. A VISITATION OF SPIRITS is a seductive book in its own way. It is the sort of novel one would expect as a third or fourth publication. Even in a decade full of "first-novel wonders," this one is a wonderful surprise. •



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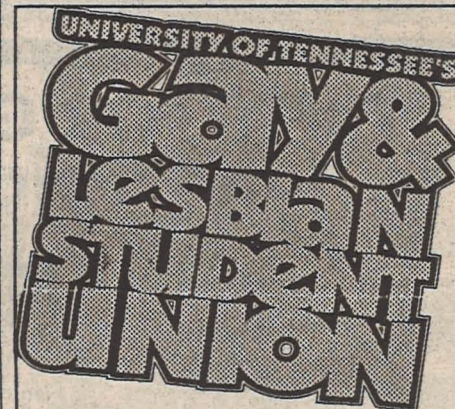
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C E N T E R

A reading r

Dare's top
gay and lesb
books
of the '80s

1
ANOTHER MOT
TONGUE
Judy Grahn

2
CHRISTIANITY, S
TOLERANCE A
HOMOSEXUAL
John Boswe

3
OSCAR WILDE
Richard Ellma

4
TALES OF THE
Armistead Ma

5
MEMORY BOA
Jane Rule

eightysom

6
LOOKING AT G
AND LESBIAN
Warren J.
Blumenfeld a
Diane Raymo

7
IN THE LIFE
Edited by Jos
Beam

8
PERMANENT
PARTNERS
Betty Berzo

9
ONE TEENAGER
Edited by Ar
Heron

10
STATES OF DES
Edmund Wh

by SHERRE
DRYDEN
Book Editor

d

are asked folks who are
"in the know" — book-
sellers, publishers, writ-
ers, librarians, our own
staff and other critics — for their
personal list of the ten best gay and
lesbian books of the '80s.

At the same time, we asked them
to comment on what they think we
can expect in the '90s, and, just for
fun, what they thought the worst
gay/lesbian book of the decade
was.

We offered no definitions of any
of our categories — best or worst,
gay or lesbian. Although we did ask
people to rank their choices from 1
to 10, some preferred not to, and
listed their choices in alphabetical
or chronological order. Some even
listed books published earlier, usu-
ally protesting that the entry
counted because the book was re-
issued in the '80s. A few couldn't
resist throwing in an extra title or
two.

To compile our list of *Dare's* top
ten gay and lesbian books of the
'80s, we assigned points to the
books on everyone's list — 10
points for a number 1 listing, 9
points for number 2, etc. Then we
added up the points.

The individual responses were
impressively diverse — it was a
surprise to see that so many books
were published in the '80s.

Each respondent's top three are
listed inset.

As for the '90s, the consensus of
our respondents is that there will be
more: more gay and lesbian charac-
ters, more books published, more
titles on the shelves of general book
stores, more topics considered in
both nonfiction and fiction.

Barbara Grier: "There will be an
increased awareness of our litera-
ture and some of the rising lights
will completely bury the old rec-
ords, the old names."

"The large commercial publish-
ers will continue to increase their
output of gay and lesbian titles, now
that they know they will sell and
that there is a large market for gay
and lesbian books," commented
Adam Schiff. "Mainstream publish-
ers will publish more fiction with
lesbian and gay themes than ever
before."

George Graham: "I look forward
to seeing more lesbian/gay charac-
ters, secondary and primary, in
'mainstream' fiction."

If our respondents are right, the
books that are published will also
become more readily available.

Win, place
and show

- Barbara Grier, CEO
The Naiad Press:
MEMORY BOARD. Jane Rule.
CURIOUS WINE.
Katherine V. Forrest.
SINKING, STEALING.
Jan Clausen
- Joe Marohl, *Dare*
OSCAR WILDE.
Richard Ellmann.
CHRISTIANITY, SOCIAL
TOLERANCE AND
HOMOSEXUALITY.
John Boswell.
THE USE OF PLEASURE.
Michel Foucault,
translated by Robert
Hurley.
- Sherre Dryden, *Dare*:
LOVE, DEATH AND THE
CHANGING OF THE SEASONS.
Marilyn Hacker.
SURPASSING THE LOVE OF
MEN.
Lillian Faderman.
OSCAR WILDE.
Richard Ellmann.
- Katherine V. Forrest
MEMORY BOARD.
Jane Rule
THE LAW OF RETURN.
Alice Bloch.
- Kenneth W. Lloyd, Jr.,
Liberty Books, Austin,
Texas:
ORANGES ARE NOT THE ONLY
FRUIT.
Jeanette Winterson.
WHY WE NEVER DANCED THE
CHARLESTON.
Harlan Greene.
- Toby Johnson,
Liberty Books:
THE POLITICS OF
HOMOSEXUALITY.
Toby Marolla
- R. Kent Fordyce,
Lambda Rising,
Washington, DC:
STATES OF DESIRE.
Edmund White.
- Ed Hermance,
Giovanni's Room,
Philadelphia:
I'VE A FEELING WE'RE NOT IN
KANSAS ANYMORE, BUDDIES
AND EVERYBODY LOVES YOU.
Ethan Mordden.
TALES OF THE CITY.
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Novelist Jane Rule — DARE

R P I E C E

renaissance

top ten
lesbian
books
the '80s

1
ER MOTHER
TONGUE
y Grahn

2
NITY, SOCIAL
ANCE AND
SEXUALITY
Boswell

3
AR WILDE
d Ellmann

4
OF THE CITY
ad Maupin

5
RY BOARD
ne Rule

omething

6
NG AT GAY
ESBIAN LIFE
en J.
enfeld and
Raymond

7
THE LIFE
by Joseph
Beam

8
MANENT
RTNERS
y Berzon

9
NAGER IN TEN
d by Ann
deron

10
OF DESIRE
and White



DARE FILE PHOTO

of our lives. We will see more gay and lesbian authored sociological studies or the patterns (an uniqueness) of our lives. We will see higher quality work all around, and we will enjoy historical fiction and biographies which place us in the eras where we have previously been made invisible."

Joe Marohl: "Small-press fiction will begin to target Achilles' heels within the community: elitism, classism, racism, ageism, addictive behaviors, etc."

Citing the fact that there are already books for lesbians on car repair and carpentry, R. Kent Fordyce speculated that "subject matters will broaden into every conceivable facet of a person's life. There will be 'how-to' books on home fix-it, investment books, retirement books. You name any market, there will be a book specifically for gays or lesbians."

Rose Fennell expects "less emphasis on coming out" and "more memoirs, both fictionalized and autobiographical."

Jenny Wrenn: "As a publisher I see the bookselling business for gays and lesbians blossoming. The future trends in marketing show more concern for target groups. Look for more well-crafted books in genre writing—mysteries, thrillers, romance—and less overtly politically correct writing."

Joe Marohl: "Nonfiction will probably dominate the '90s, becoming more and more political in nature. A broader political agenda for lesbians and homosexuals may then emerge. I'd like to see much more published in the areas of social science criticism and biography."

Several respondents expect changes for the better in lesbian fiction. Rose Fennell predicted "better lesbian fiction with writers like Sarah Schulman." Jane Troxell echoed Fennell's comments, hoping for "more sophisticated lesbian fiction" and a "continuation of the trend of increasing numbers of lesbian erotic works."

Jenny Wrenn: "I think lesbians are relaxing and feeling better about themselves and thus are able to create unappealing lesbian char-

acters as well as humane ones. Good writing must have a variety, a mixture of good and not-so-good protagonists."

"AIDS will continue to have a major impact through the '90s and this will be reflected both in fiction and nonfiction. There will also continue to be an ever-burgeoning output of AIDS books in the scientific and medical publishing arena," Adam Schiff commented. Other respondents concurred.

Kenneth W. Lloyd, Jr.: "In fiction, novels concerning men living with the HIV positive label; in nonfiction: AIDS, AIDS, AIDS."

Ian Young expects "more books on holistic approaches to AIDS."

AIDS will also have an indirect impact, according to Toby Johnson: "There is a real trend toward unique gay spiritualities—partly in response to AIDS—a blending of gay sensibilities and new age expectations of the millennium." Rose Fennell commented that there will be "more introspective non-fiction for gay men."

Toby Johnson expressed the only doubts about where a loosening of the restrictions of political correctness on lesbian and gay writers may lead. "There's currently a rash of novels about the perversions and neuroses of gay life—[Dennis] Cooper's book [CLOSER], for instance—is seems to have become acceptable for homosexuals to now write the kind of unhappy books that the gay/lesbian genre was developed to combat. That's ironic—our own people are now spouting the negative messages about gay life that our enemies used to. The difference, of course, is that the gay writers tend to glamorize and sensationalize the negatives."

"Publishers have a responsibility to consider how the models their books depict will affect real people's lives," Johnson continued. "I would like to see control of gay publishing move away from New York, with its angry and negative attitudes, toward California, with its new age optimism."

Katherine V. Forrest offered a vision of the future: "The gay and lesbian communities, drawn ever closer together by our war on AIDS and against those who would deny us even the most basic civil rights, will increasingly discover and value each other—and this will be reflected in our fiction as gay and lesbian people together populate all of our books." •

89
1990

- Stephen Spender.
- Luz Maria Umpleire, Western Kentucky University: THE DREAM OF A COMMON LANGUAGE.
- Adrienne Rich.
- ON LIES, SECRETS AND SILENCE.
- Adrienne Rich.
- SISTER OUTSIDER.
- Audre Lorde.
- Ian Young, editor, Scarborough, Ontario: REPORTS FROM THE HOLOCAUST: THE MAKING OF AN AIDS ACTIVIST.
- Larry Kramer.
- OSCAR WILDE.
- Richard Ellmann.
- THE CELLULOID CLOSET.
- Vito Russo.
- Jenny Wrenn, Clothespin Fever Press, Los Angeles: IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT.
- Edited by Carolyn Weathers and Jenny Wrenn.
- CRAZY.
- Carolyn Weathers.
- ROTARY SPOOKS.
- Fiona Cooper.
- George Graham, Dare: UNCOMMON CALLING.
- Chris Glaser.
- THE COLOR PURPLE.
- Alice Walker.
- THE WOMEN OF BREWSTER PLACE.
- Gloria Naylor.
- Rose Fennell, LAMBDA RISING BOOK REPORT: ANOTHER MOTHER TONGUE.
- Judy Grahn.
- LOOKING AT GAY AND LESBIAN LIFE.
- Warren Blumenfeld and Diane Raymond.
- IN THE LIFE.
- Joseph Beam.
- Adam L. Schiff, Chair, American Library Association Gay/Lesbian Book Award Committee: TALES OF THE CITY.
- Armistead Maupin.
- CHRISTIANITY, SOCIAL TOLERANCE AND HOMOSEXUALITY.
- John Boswell.
- ALIENATED AFFECTIONS.
- Seymour Kleinberg.
- Polly Thistlewaite, Lesbian Herslory Archives: A RESTRICTED COUNTRY.
- Joan Nestle.
- SEX AND GERMS.
- Cindy Patton.
- ANOTHER MOTHER TONGUE.
- Judy Grahn.
- Jane Troxell, LAMBDA RISING BOOK REPORT: ANOTHER MOTHER TONGUE.
- Judy Grahn.
- BORROWED TIME.
- Paul Monette.
- GAY AND LESBIAN POETRY IN OUR TIME.
- Edited by Carl Morse and Loan Larkin.

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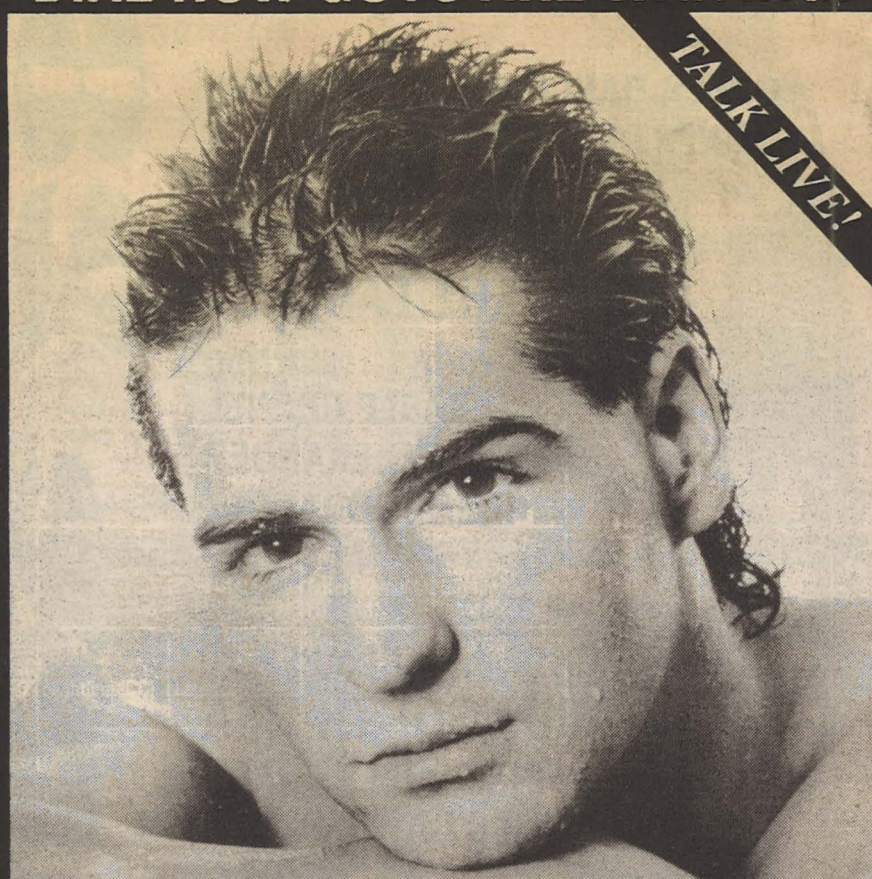
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...book previews

• continued from page 5

caregivers.

• **REPORT FOR MURDER.** Val McDermid. NY: St. Martin's, January 1990. \$15.95.

The debut of Lindsay Gordon, who describes herself as a "cynical socialist lesbian feminist journalist." Commissioned to write a story on an English girls' school, Lindsay finds herself charged with the murder of Lorna Smith-Couper, celebrated cellist and alumna of the school. Lindsay sets out to solve the crime with the help of playwright Cordelia Brown, also an alumna of the school.

• **ROSE PENSKE.** Roz Perry. Tallahassee: Naiad, 1989. \$8.95 paper.

Rose and Adelle have shared an untroubled, if quirky, eight-year relationship. When doctors find a lump in Adelle's breast, both women do what they can to cope.

• **SOMEWHERE IN THE NIGHT: STORIES OF SUSPENSE.** Jeffrey N. McMahan. Boston: Alyson, October 1989. \$7.95 paper.

• **SUE SLATE, PRIVATE EYE.** Lee Lynch. Tallahassee: Naiad, 1989. \$8.95 paper.

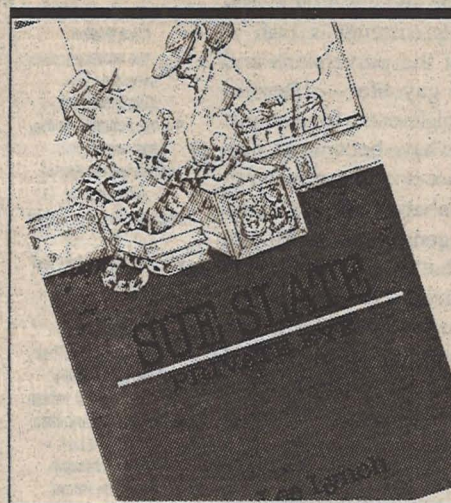
Gorgeous Tallulah Mimosa slides in the window and rough, tough private eye Sue Slate accepts The Case of the Kidnapped Kittens. Soon, though, the two felines discover a murdered People and are on the trail of a human criminal.

• **UNNATURAL RELATIONS.** Mike Seabrook. London: GMP, 1989. \$10.95 paper.

His love for Christopher brings 15 year-old Jamie Potten solace from a bullying father and an uncaring mother — until Christopher is prosecuted for "buggery with a minor," in England an offense that can still result in life imprisonment.

• **VOYAGES OUT 1: LESBIAN SHORT FICTION.** Paula Martinac and Carla Tomaso. Seattle: Seal, October 1989. \$8.95 paper.

• **WHERE JOY RESIDES: A CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD READER.** NY: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, December 1989. \$19.95. PRATER VIOLET and A SINGLE MAN, as well as short fiction, essays and reminiscences.



• **WHITE BOOK/LE LIVRE BLANC.** Jean Cocteau. San Francisco: City Lights, 1989. \$5.95 paper.

When first published anonymously in 1928 LE LIVRE BLANC was attacked as obscene. This semi-autobiographical narrative describes the love affairs and attempts to find fulfillment of a young man, ending with an impassioned plea for sexual tolerance and homosexual rights.

NONFICTION

• **BRIDGE OF CHILDHOOD: TRUMAN CAPOTE'S SOUTHERN YEARS.** Marianne M. Moates with Jennings Faulk Carter. NY: Holt, October 1989. \$19.95.

Recollections by Carter, Truman Capote's first cousin, whose mother helped raise Capote after he was abandoned by his mother to the care of relatives.

• **CLIMBING TOWARD THE LIGHT.** Ardath H. Rodale. Emmaus, PA: Rodale, September 1989. \$17.95.

Ardath and Robert Rodale are the founders of Rodale

Press, publishers of PREVENTION MAGAZINE and ORGANIC GARDENING. Their son David, a musician, playwright and painter, died of AIDS at age 30. CLIMBING TOWARD THE LIGHT is the story of Ardath's life and David's death.

• **FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA: A LIFE.** Ian Gibson. NY: Pantheon, October 1989. \$29.95.

Lorca's family and friends were unwilling to acknowledge his homosexuality, leaving Gibson to rely heavily on speculation in this exploration of the Spanish writer's "hidden, tormented" side.



• **GENET: A BIOGRAPHY OF JANET FLANNER.** Brenda Wineapple. NY: Ticknor & Fields, December 1989. \$24.95.

Flanner left her husband for writer Solita Solano in 1921 and the two women joined the group of women, many of the lesbians, working in writing in Paris in the 20s.

• **HIDDEN FROM HISTORY: RECLAIMING THE GAY AND LESBIAN PAST.** Edited by Martin Duberman, Martha Vicinus and George Chauncey, Jr. NY: NAL, November 1989. \$24.95.

• **HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE.** John Boswell, Daniel C. Maguire, Rosemary Reuther and others. NY: Crossroad/Continuum, September 1989. \$15.95 paper.

First-person narratives by women and men in religious life who have come to terms with their own homosexuality. The anthology is edited by Jeannine Gramick, a nun and co-editor of THE VATICAN AND HOMOSEXUALITY.

• **MARATHON: A STORY OF ENDURANCE AND FRIENDSHIP.** Richard Harteis. NY: Norton, November 1989. \$18.95 cloth.

• **NEW YORK.** Djuna Barnes. Sun & Moon, September 1989. \$24.95, \$12.95 paper.

42 articles originally published in New York newspapers between 1913 and 1919, including Barnes' controversial piece written after she was force fed in order to accurately describe the ordeals of suffragists.

• **NICE JEWISH GIRLS: A LESBIAN ANTHOLOGY.** Edited by Evelyn Torton Beck. Revised and updated edition. Boston: Beacon Press, December 1989. \$12.95 paper.

• **PORTRAIT OF DAVID HOCKNEY.** Peter Webb. NY: Dutton, November 1989. \$22.95.

• **THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TELL YOU: AN ANTHOLOGY ABOUT LESBIANS AND GAY MEN COMING OUT TO THEIR CHILDREN.** Edited by Loralee MacPike. Tallahassee: Naiad, 1989. \$16.95, \$9.95 paper.

• **TWICE BLESSED: ON BEING LESBIAN, GAY AND JEWISH.** Edited by Christie Balka and Andy Rose. Boston: Beacon Press, December 1989. \$24.95.

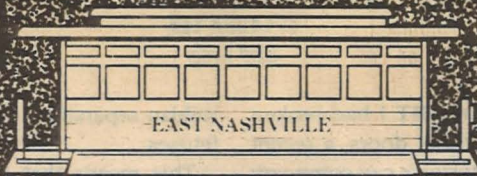
Focuses on gay men and lesbians who want to remain active in Jewish religious life.

• **W.H. AUDEN.** Wendell Stacy Johnson. NY: Crossroad/Continuum, December 1989. \$18.95.

• **WAY OF HOPE: MICHIO KUSHI'S ANTI-AIDS PROGRAM.** Tom Monte. NY: Warner Books, September 1989. \$19.95.

Journalist Monte's description of the macrobiotic, holistic AIDS treatment that Kushi claims is as effective as AZT. •

5 POINTS



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BETWEEN THE LINES

Remembering

WITH THE END of a decade fast approaching, you tend to find yourself reminiscing a good deal of the time, remembering things you haven't thought about in ages.

Often during these past few weeks as we've been planning our "eightysomething" series, my mind has been filled with any number of ideas and thoughts — some disjointed and abstract, others clear and connected. It's frightening how much of those thoughts are connected in some way to AIDS.

At the beginning of this decade little was known about AIDS. Few people talked about it. You didn't know many people, if any at all, who had experienced it personally. You probably had no idea what HIV meant.

As a result, you did foolish things. You had unsafe sex. You slept with too many people. You did drugs and drank too much liquor. You were determined to have a good time. Damn the torpedoes. Full steam ahead.

Gradually, however, you began to read about AIDS, to hear it mentioned on TV talk shows. The litany of names and numbers began. At first you didn't know anyone who had been affected. But as the days passed, you began to hear stories about old friends, people with slightly familiar names, total strangers who had AIDS.

Like the guy in Memphis who committed suicide. His name was Mark. He was a couple of years younger than me and he was a police officer. Imagine that? A gay cop.

He had dated my nephew Jamie for several months. If they went out to dinner it was always to the Gaslight Dinner Theatre on Brooks Road, a place I'd always imagined cops would go on a date.

I didn't really know Mark very well, but we were friends I guess. Not long after he and my nephew stopped seeing each other he called to ask if he could borrow something to wear to a pink-and-green party (those preppy parties were all the rage in 1981). He ended up borrowing some kelly green pants and a grosgrain belt in the official party colors.

We laughed about him trying to look preppy. We flirted with each other. And if he hadn't already dated my nephew, the odds were we would have gone out together. As it was, we never did.

A couple of years later, someone asked if I knew Mark had killed himself.

"He had been in trouble with the police force. He thought they were gonna kick him off because he was gay," someone said.

"Yeah," another offered. "He was afraid his family would find out."

Gradually, the real reason came out. He had been diagnosed as being HIV-positive.

To him — as well as to a lot of people in 1982, I suppose — an HIV-positive blood test was a death sentence.

Mark decided to cheat death at its own game. So he threw in the towel.

He was the first person I knew whose death could be attributed in some manner to AIDS. When I heard that news, the disease suddenly had a face, a name. I had lost a friend.

And that's what I'll remember about the '80s.

—JEFF ELLIS

Dare

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

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

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LETTERS

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

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

SOAPBOX

Out of the closet and into the fire

by LAURA TEK
Staff Writer

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I had broken down the last of my closet doors, a recent letter to the editor of Boston's GAY COMMUNITY NEWS (October 22-28) made me realize that I had missed a big one.

I am a pro-life lesbian.

I finally have the courage to admit it. I no longer can accept the public's assumption that just because I am a lesbian, I must be for abortion. What's prevented me, I think, from "coming out" as a pro-lifer sooner was probably my fear of being further minoritized.

I've waited too long to voice my opposition to the pro-choice movement, a movement that the gay press (including *Dare*) has for too long, and unrightly so, associated with the gay and lesbian rights movement.

There is no other issue today that divides us so clearly as the abortion issue. It is unique from other civil rights matters because it's a classic example of conflicting civil rights: the right of a woman to control her own body and the right of an unborn child to survive.

In my opinion, it is the only civil rights struggle that involves the exercise of one's "rights" at the expense of other human lives. I am all for the right for one to do with one's body as he or she wishes, but that should not include the right to willfully destroy human life for the sake of convenience or for the right to willfully transmit AIDS.

I believe that if abortion-on-demand is permitted to continue, it will gradually erode respect for the sanctity of human life. If society continues to permit the destruction of a fetus for purposes of convenience, it can easily apply the same utilitarian approach to a senior citizen, a physically challenged child, a gay man, a lesbian woman or a person with AIDS.

Abortions are already performed on the basis of gender selection which, in the cases of some straight couples, is genocide against female fetuses, and in cases of some extreme

lesbian separatists, is genocide against male fetuses.

This means that if homosexuality were discovered to be indeed a genetic trait, many gay and lesbian fetuses will end up being aborted because they would be considered "handicapped" children in the eyes of their right-wing, ignorant and hysterical mothers.

I'd hate to have our brother- and sisterhood, or any community for that matter, systematically undermined and destroyed simply because of irrational homophobia.

I first became aware of my decision not to support abortion back in 1974, one year after ROE V. WADE. I was in college, sitting in a bar with my roommate, listening to her recount the bitter relationship she'd had with her mother.

She told me with tears in her eyes that her mother had told her, more than once, that "if abortions were around in 1955, you wouldn't be here."

I couldn't imagine at the time a more horrifying thing for a mother to tell her child than that. I still can't. If her mother, who I later came to know as a very sick and selfish woman, had abortion as an option available to her and did indeed have one, my life

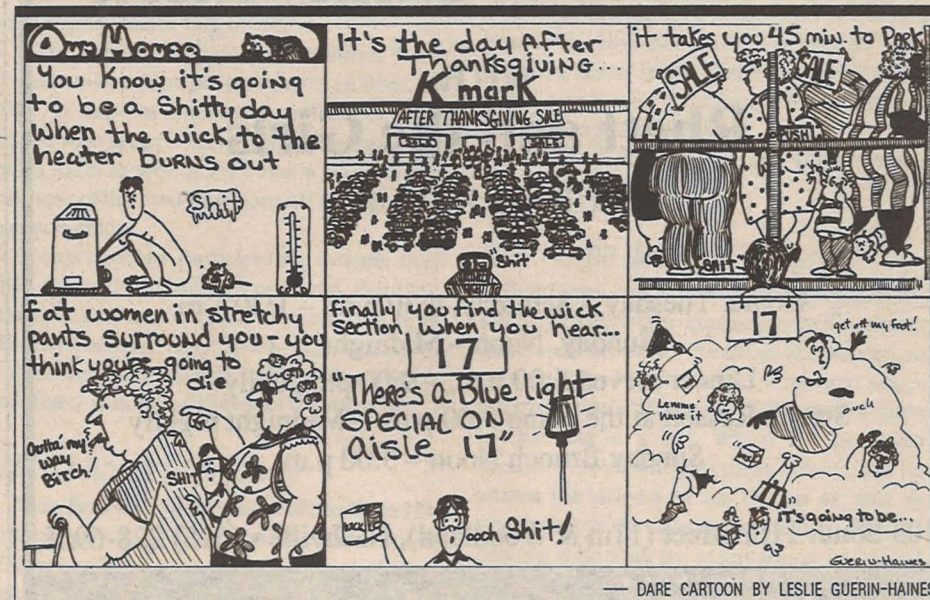
would never have been touched by this woman, my roommate, who later became my closest friend and confidant.

I WISH MORE gay men and lesbians would voice their support for and become active in the pro-life movement. The unborn, like us, are an oppressed minority. And oppressed minorities should support one another, especially one that has no voice or representation at all.

The GCN letter mentioned two organizations that merit our support: Feminists for Life, 811 E. 47th Street, Kansas City, MO, 64110; and National Pro-Life Democrats, P.O. Box 23467, Minneapolis, MN, 55423.

Pro-life gay men and lesbians, let's keep silent no longer. •

**I no longer can
accept the
assumption that
just because I
am a lesbian, I
must be for
abortion.**



—DARE CARTOON BY LESLIE GUERIN-HAINES

S C R E E N S

Valuable steel magnolias

STEEL MAGNOLIAS. Directed by Herbert Ross. Screenplay by Robert Harling.
reviewed by **F. LYNNE BACHLEDA**

Staff Writer

THE VIRTUE of STEEL MAGNOLIAS is its values. It will, however, be widely seen, talked and written about because of its cast.

The magnetic assemblage of personas Dolly Parton, Olympia Dukakis, Sally Field, Julia Roberts, Daryl Hannah and Shirley MacLaine will attract people to this film that has a sincerity and decency that push past its flaws.

With such a line-up, this is, more than usual, an actor's film and Robert Harling's script has got the goods for them. Filmed in his hometown — Natchitoches, Louisiana — Harling wrote the play (upon which the movie is based) in a very few days as a personal exorcism of his feelings about his sister. He appears briefly in the film as the minister who marries Julia Roberts off in a swirling overdone aura of "Pepto Bismol pink."

Basic novice Harling's script has some real shine and snap to it. Without a doubt it's Shirley MacLaine's Ouiser (pronounced "weezer") character who has the most fun, the best lines ("You're a pig from hell!") and the best performance.

Julia Roberts runs a close second. She imbues what might be another vacuous Southern ingenue with backbone and depth. Her diabetic convulsion scene is riveting, scary, and all the more impressive since it was shot over two days.

Sally Field might get an Academy Award nomination if only for a graveside performance where she spins out emotions faster than a kaleidoscope in an amusement park, each one locking into place as though on a turret.

Daryl Hannah's charge was to give three distinct phases to her character Annette, and Olympia Dukakis' was to cultivate a Southern accent. Both pass for good.

Lovable Dolly Parton's Truvy, however, whose beauty shop and spirit are at the core, has trouble. I always want to see her succeed because I respect her so much, but her performance here is stilted, wooden. Truvy is the ultimate, genuine insider who knows the heart, business and wisdom of living. Yet Dolly seems best when she's playing the outsider (as in 9 TO 5 or BEST LITTLE WHORE-

HOUSE IN TEXAS).

Perhaps her heritage of determination to get inside from the outside is at work here. Perhaps trying to hold the screen with all these other pros is a difficult proposition at best.

Herbert Ross' experienced direction (CALI-

FORNIA SUITE, PLAY IT AGAIN SAM and THE TURNING POINT, to name a few of his films) doesn't get in the way of the story with showy cinematography or gimmicky editing. The best scene for the camera is the slightly tipsy, dizzying wedding reception that feels just right.

The criticism that the film does not hold to the play that takes place entirely in Truvy's beauty shop with only the female characters is a weak one. Why represent it when you can show it? That's what movies do best.

Harling's hometown shows a quaint, comfortable Southern familiarity. The score by Georges Delerue (JULIA) has a

sweet, big strings theme reminiscent of Max Steiner's score for GONE WITH THE WIND, and a homey harmonica just to make doubly sure you know you're in a rural, easy place.

At two hours, the film runs a little long and is flawed in its character connections. Truvy is not really believable; Sally Field as a grandmother is a reach in concept; and there do exist those Southern stereotypes of quaint, sun-baked wackos, like those characters played by Shirley MacLaine and Tom Skerritt.

BUT FOR ALL these flaws, I liked it. It's still an essentially true story about friendships that last a lifetime, about the strong pull for family, about female steel, dammit, and about

the fact that life rolls on — with us, over us — with its relentless self-replacement. Our only choice is personal style, what we do with that relentless force in our face.

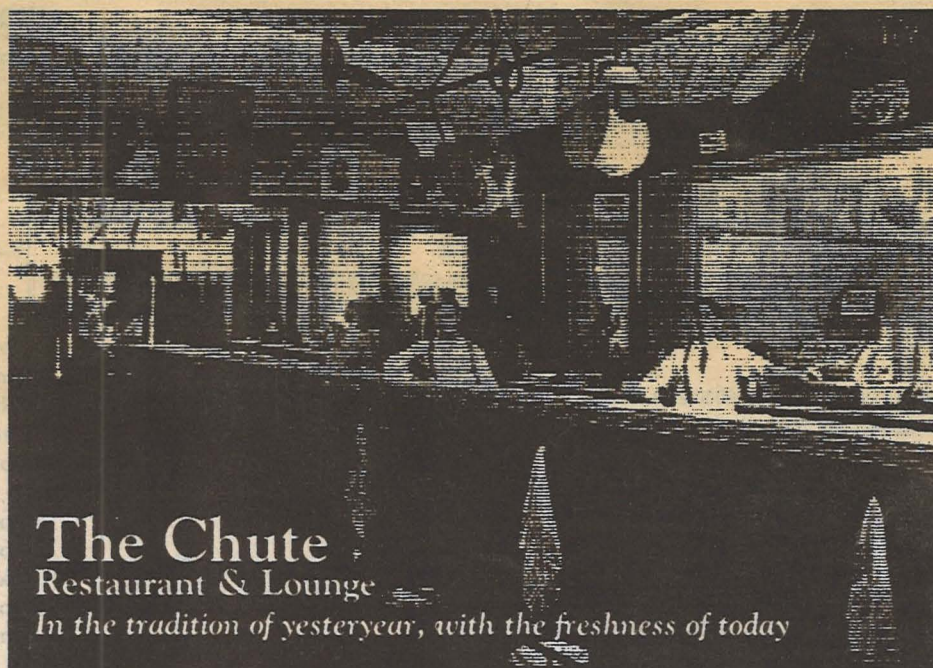
Julia Roberts holds the heart of the film: "You get through it and life goes on. I would rather have 30 minutes of wonderful than a lifetime of nothing special."

So would I.

Go see it.

Good values go a long way. Always have, always will. •

It's still an essentially true story about friendships that last a lifetime, about the strong pull for family, about female steel, dammit, and about the fact that life rolls on — with us, over us — with its relentless self-replacement.



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M A R K E T

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Personal

• Buddy in Springfield: met you 11-27 at the Chute. Call Jack in Nashville, (615) 833-9319.

• M, XX00XX00 I love our XX00XX00 tuesday XX00XX00 and saturday XX00XX00 nights XX00XX00, L.

• Photographer sks WMs 19-29 with athletic bodies for nude photo study. Confidential. Jackson. Phone Chris, (901) 423-1609.

L O O S E L I P S

Dear Ann Landers...

"My first impression of THE LOAFER is disappointment in the low moral standards seemingly put forth by the paper. I am referring to the sexist picture and comment on page two, and the inclusion of the homosexual and bisexual community in 'The Paper Chase.'

"I am surprised that a progressive newspaper would make remarks about a woman's body parts. You should graduate from the woman-equals-sex-object mentality. The picture wasn't obscene, but it and the comment 'nice tail' were vulgar.

"Concerning 'The Paper Chase,' with all the pain, heartache and disease that aberrant sexual lifestyles eventually causes, it seems very irresponsible for you to encourage homosexual and bisexual encounters in our city. Homosexual and bisexual behavior is the leading cause of AIDS in the land. Perhaps next you will include 'I,' for intravenous drug users."

— **Bryan D. Joyce, in a letter to THE LOAFER, a Chattanooga-based "alternative" newspaper.**

"Big news on the condom front. Take, for instance, Carter-Wallace Inc., which is now marketing condoms that are 20 percent larger than your standard latex Trojan. Time was, condoms came in a tidy 'one size fits all' mold. But that was before the brawny Magnum Condom, which may just be the best marketing ploy ever: after all, who in his right mind will ask for the smaller styles?"

"Over 70 percent of men could be more comfortable with a larger-sized condom," explains Carter Products marketing director Scott Hoyt."

— **From NEWSWEEK's "Periscope" section.**

"We are...opposed to all forms of birth control with the exception of natural family planning [the rhythm method]."

— **Judie Brown, president of the American Life Lobby.**

"There you go with that fucking hand again. You look like a fucking pansy."

— **Political media consultant Roger Ailes, responsible for this kinder and gentler nation in which we live, to George Bush during an intense coaching session, according to December's VANITY FAIR.**

"Dear Readers: A while back I received a letter from a homosexual who signed himself 'Waiting for Justice in Chicago.' He wrote, 'At present no state will allow two people of the same sex to obtain a marriage license... This is discrimination of the most blatant kind in a country that claims to believe in freedom, equality and liberty.'

"I told [him] I doubted that we would see the legalization of same-sex marriages in our lifetime and then invited my readers to drop me a line and let me know if they were for it or against it.

"I have received more than 55,000 responses. Three sacks of mail are still unopened. The tally is running about 2 to 1 against same-sex marriages. Keep reading and you will learn how Americans and Can-

dians feel about this issue. I must say that I am deeply troubled by the viciousness and lack of compassion of so many correspondents."

— **Advice doyenne Ann Landers, writing in her syndicated column.**

"The way you stick up for queers is disgusting. But I am not surprised, seeing as how you are an ultra left-winger, a Jew and a woman."

— **A reader from Grosse Point, Mich., responding to Landers' request for opinions on same-sex marriages.**

"I cast my vote for legal recognition of same-sex couples. I am gay, my wife is straight, and we have been married 25 years. The love and understanding of this wonderful woman have kept me away from temptation."

— **From a reader in Saginaw, Mich.**

"I am the father of two sons. One is gay. I want equal rights for both boys. Put me in the 'for' column."

— **A Philadelphia reader.**

"I vote no. Now there is only one question that remains to be answered. How long did same-sex marriages go on in Sodom and Gomorrah until the Lord told Lot and his family to get out of town?"

— **From an Ann Landers reader in Lima, Ohio.**



Ann Landers: she's got our vote. — DARE FILE PHOTO

"I work in a hospice and never cease to be moved by the unselfish love and devotion these males have for one another. Such beautiful relationships ought to have the dignity of legal recognition."

— **From Santa Rosa, Calif.**

"History is repeating itself. The gays are where the blacks were 35 years ago. Who would have thought back then that we would have black mayors in more than a dozen of our country's largest cities?"

— **A Chicago reader, responding to Landers' request for opinions on same-sex marriages.**

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