Those chaotic folks from 'A Girl's Guide to Chaos'
Curtains, page 7

Sasser signs on as co-sponsor
by JEFF ELLIS

Tennessee Senator Jim Sasser (D) last week added his name to the list of co-sponsors of the Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act. Along with Georgians Sam Nunn (D), the two senators bring to 56 the number of the bill's co-sponsors.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force legislative director Peri Jude Radecic, who had lobbied both Sasser and Nunn for several months, is optimistic the bill will pass during the 101st Congress, forestalling attempts to derail it by Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.).

"Getting Sasser and Nunn to co-sponsor this critical legislation is proof that ongoing constituent pressure works," Radecic said.

"When the local gay and lesbian community puts its mind to winning and exerts its political muscle, legislators are more likely to do the right thing."

NGLTF is now pressuring Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-Maine) to set a firm date for action on the bill. The bill's advocates have until the end of the 101st Congress, scheduled to adjourn in the fourth quarter of 1990, to pass the bill under the current list of sponsors.

Last June, members of the House of Representatives passed the bill by a vote of 368-47. During 1988, House members passed the bill only to have it killed by a Helms-led move. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act directs the U.S. Department of Justice to compile and publish data on crimes based on prejudice in regards to race, religion, sexual orientation or sexual ethnicity. Lesbian and gay activists view the bill as an important first step in stopping incidents of "gay bashing."

NGLTF's anti-violence project last year reported about 7,250 cases of anti-gay violence and defamation, with a vast majority of the incidents going unreported because of fear of anti-gay stigmatization and discrimination.

An earlier NGLTF report indicated that one in four gay men and one in ten lesbians have been "punched, kicked or beaten" because of their sexual orientation.

T-GALA plans changes for the 'gay '90s'
Membership vote to proposed changes next month
by JEFF ELLIS

In a move designed to "energize the group and put it on course for the new decade," members of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) have announced plans for changes in the organization.

Among plans is a change in the group's bylaws that will create a board of directors under more centralized leadership, development of new programs and a fundraising plan directed toward the hiring of a full-time executive director.

T-GALA's membership will vote on the proposals at the January 8 meeting. If approved, the board of directors will be elected at that meeting.

"I think the timing for this change is perfect," said Penny Campbell, steering committee member.

"We're coming up on an election year; Nashville's gay and lesbian community is stronger and more sophisticated than many realize; and we're entering not only a new decade but one dubbed "the gay '90s." If we can get ourselves organized politically, and we have the people and resources to do it, I believe we can make significant changes in Nashville on the issue of gay rights."

Campbell said T-GALA members had realized "it was not on its best course" and that led to the proposed changes.

"Now is the time to grow and move forward," said Nashville attorney Abby Rubenfeld, a T-GALA member. "We can do so with the strength through these revised by-laws and the proposed plan of action. Join us in that effort — come to the meeting in January, help finalize these by-laws, assist with the development of our new programs, get involved. T-GALA — and the lesbian and gay community — can only be as strong and as active as we make it."

Campbell said steering committee members see "very favorable" of the proposals, saying the action has attracted new people and new ideas to the organization.

T-GALA has 120 members on its rolls presently. At its peak, some 80 people attended regular monthly meetings, with only 10 attending during the group's lowest point.

The overall concept of the re-structuring is to have T-GALA involved in legislative, educational, social and political activities, with a separate tax-exempt foundation added later.

Campbell said that a time-line has been developed and a fund-raising plan discussed to facilitate implementation of the proposals if adopted by the membership next month.

NGRA troubles mount
O'Leary resigns amid growing controversy
from STAFF REPORTS

O'Leary resigns amid growing controversy

In the wake of resignations and charges of mismanagement, Jean O'Leary last Friday submitted her own resignation as executive director of the San Francisco-based National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), one of only two public interest law firms specializing in lesbian/gay litigation.

O'Leary had held the position for eight years.

Leonard Graff, current legal director for NGRA, was appointed by the board to serve as interim chief executive officer.

William Pratt, current director of community affairs, will head operations at the firm's Los Angeles office.

In a press conference at NGRA's Castro Street offices, Richard White, chair of the board of directors, said, "It is with reluctance that NGRA's Board of Directors accepts the resignation."

Despite White's public statements, O'Leary had been at the center of a reported power struggle among factions at the West Coast law firm.

Her resignation follows the forced resignations of staff attorneys Ben Schatz and Cynthia Goldstein — whom O'Leary blamed for squabbles — and the defections of six other key staff figures.

In her letter of resignation, O'Leary wrote, "I urge everyone to continue to support this valuable organization...I cherish NGRA for the years and years of challenges it has provided for me."

Disabilities Act covers PWAs
by JACKI MOSS

If the Americans with Disabilities Act goes through as expected, for the first time, people with AIDS will be guaranteed protection against job discrimination and assured of access to transportation, movies, restaurants and other public places.

The bill passed solidly through the Senate and is currently under scrutiny by four House committees that will more than likely send it to a floor vote. Once passed by the House, it will go to President Bush for his signature.

The bill is being called by its supporters the "20th century Emancipation Proclamation for people with disabilities," and is considered one of the most far-reaching pieces of civil rights legislation ever and the most important considered by congress during this decade. Under the act, 1.5 million people with AIDS, as a part of the nation's 43 million people with disabilities, cannot legally be treated differently from anyone else who has an illness.

...continued on page 4

INSIDE

Dare this week


Heroic film: Lawrence of Arabia. Screens, page 11.

Of all things, quotes from Tennessee! Loose Lips, page 16.
PWA charged with aggravated battery
PARSONS, Kan. — A man who told two police he had AIDS and then spat on them has been charged with aggravated battery and making a terroristic threat.

The man, a 28-year-old Parsons resident, was originally stopped for carrying an open container of liquor in his car. Police took him into custody on additional charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and driving without a license. At the station, he allegedly threatened to kill the arresting officers, told them he had AIDS, and spat on them.

He was eventually charged with aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer, two counts of making a terroristic threat, possession of marijuana, and obstruction of the official duty of an officer. County Prosecutor James Craig said the accused would have to prove some of the charges.

ACT UP plans Atlanta protests next month
ATLANTA — January 8 and 9 are marked as the dates for two major protests planned by the local chapter of AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP).

The first protest will be held at the Georgia State Capitol on the opening day of the 1990 Georgia legislature. Demonstrators will demand the repeal of laws against sodomy in 25 states. "Because these laws effectively define all lesbians and gay men as statutory felons, they promote violence against gay people and frighten everybody away from HIV testing, counseling, health care, and treatment," said Chip Rowan, action facilitator for the Georgia capital city in January.

The delegates refused to give specific support to the Nashville Coalition Against Pornography. Another resolution banned the use of non-biodegradable products, such as styro-foam cups, at Episcopal churches in the diocese.

PWA files suit against former employer
HOUSTON — A man with AIDS has filed suit against his insurer and his former employer after they changed his group health insurance plan to lower the lifetime cap on AIDS-related claims from $1,000,000 to $5,000.

John McGann, an employee of H & H Music Co. since 1982, began submitting medical claims to his employer's group health plan after he was diagnosed with AIDS in 1987. In July 1988, the company canceled the group medical plan and replaced it with a new plan which imposed a limit of $5,000 on AIDS-related claims, while leaving the ceiling for other illnesses at $1,000,000. McGann claims these actions violate the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as well as several state laws.

Navy begins court martial of HIV+ sailor
SAN DIEGO — The U.S. Navy has begun court-martial proceedings against an HIV-positive sailor who allegedly had sex with another sailor without telling him about the infection.

The Navy has charged Petty Officer Third Class Theophilus Coleman with two counts of sodomy and misconduct and one count of threatening the sailor who was allegedly his sexual partner. The charges were brought after an unnamed sailor told Navy officials that he and Coleman had anal sex without a condom, and Coleman did not inform him that he was HIV-positive beforehand. Coleman denies all of the charges.

Episcopals to fight AIDS discrimination
CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. — Delegates representing the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee passed a resolution calling on Episcopalians to fight discrimination against people with AIDS in housing, employment, medical care and insurance coverage.

The same convention passed a resolution opposing hard-core pornography. However, the delegates refused to give specific support to the Nashville Coalition Against Pornography.

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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
This Sunday, December 17
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Free holiday punch and Christmas buffet

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The DENA KAYE Christmas Show
10:30 p.m. and Midnight
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Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus in Concert!
&
Chris Cinque's "Growing Up Queer in America"
&
Emcee Melinda Tremaglio from Hollywood!

Saturday, December 16, 7:00 p.m.
War Memorial Auditorium • Nashville
Tickets: Main Floor Balcony(preferred seating)
Advance $10 $13
At the door $12 $15
Reception with the entire cast following the concert $25
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THEME: "We are everywhere."

Chattanooga
• Alan Gold's • Metropolitan Community Church
• Silver Bullet • Tony's
Clarksville
• Organization for Support of Gay & Lesbians • The Office
Knoxville
• The Black and the Read • Carousel II
• Davis-Kidd Booksellers
• Gay & Lesbian Student Union/UT
• Metropolitan Community Church • Pennecot
• Traditions
Memphis
• Apartment • Barbara's • Chaps
• Davis-Kidd Booksellers • GDI on the River
• J'Wag's • Maggie's Pharm
• Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center
• Memphis Lambda Center
• Orgas • Paperback Shack • Pipeline
• Reflections • Squash Blossom Natural Foods
• Tobacco Corner Newsroom • WKRJ in Memphis Nashville
• A's • Book Oasis • Chet Coleste • The Chute
• Crazy Cowboy II • Davis-Kidd Booksellers
• Dragnoty Books • Five Points Depot
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• Metropolitan Community Church
• Milla Bookstore • Nashville CARES • Ralph's
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• Warehouse 28 • World's End

AIDS UPDATE
compiled by JACKI MOSS
Staff Writer

AIDS Breakthrough

There may be hope for an AIDS vaccine if studies from Tulane University are applicable
to HIV. According to researchers at Tulane, a vaccine made of whole, inactivated simian
immunodeficiency virus (SIV) protects rhesus monkeys from SIV infection.

Although the SIV is different from HIV, almost 50% of their genetic pattern is the
same, which gives researchers cautious hope that the mechanism used to vaccinate
monkeys from SIV infection will be a similar one to vaccinate humans from HIV infection. They
hope that by learning what works to develop an SIV vaccine, they will be able to use the
same or similar mechanism to develop an HIV vaccine.

The study injected dead SIV into monkeys and then 13 months later they were injected with
an extremely powerful dose of live SIV. The vaccinated monkeys seemed to be able to
protect themselves from the retrovirus, while the non-vaccinated monkeys all died within
seven months of infection.

The mechanism by which the vaccine is thought to work is very similar to the polio
vaccine developed by Jonas Salk. Salk is also working on a vaccine for AIDS, as well.

Although this study is very promising, there are many problems to overcome before the
creation of an AIDS vaccine for humans and researchers predict that it will still be years
before an AIDS vaccine reaches the public.

Hypercin study

A report in AIDS TREATMENT NEWS of a survey about the benefits and side effects of hypercin
was recently published. Hypercin is an antiviral
ral used by many people who have AIDS as a
medicinal herb.

The survey by AIDS TREATMENT NEWS noted that, "The bottom line, in our view, can be
seen in the lists of side effects and the benefits.
27 of the 112 respondents reported side ef
fects, but most of them were minor; very few
required stopping the hypercin. But the bene
fits — reported by 65 of the 112 — are usually
significant. Some directly affect the quality of
life, and other suggest improvement in under
lying health. Most are benefits that persons
with HIV would want to have..."

As with any treatment or drug, you should consult your physician to determine the possi
ble benefits and/or problems prior to begin
ning.

...disabilities act

• continued from page 1

that is more "acceptable" such as cancer or
multiple sclerosis.

Because the bill includes provisions for
people with AIDS, hot debate is expected in
the House generated by small businesses and
other detractors who are concerned about the
financial burden of compliance.

There are also questions about precisely
how much protection the bill will provide for
people with AIDS.

Even in the face of what may be vocal
opposition, the bill is expected to pass be
cause it is backed by more than 200 sponsors
in the House. It also has the support of the

Bush administration and over 200 civil rights
and advocacy groups.

In addition to protection for people with
AIDS, the bill also declares that alcoholism
and drug addiction are medical problems and
not signs of moral turpitude and that people
who are attempting to overcome their ill
esses are protected under the law as well.

Both Tennesseeans in the Senate, democrats
Jim Sasser and Al Gore have, after an intensive
lobbying effort, have signed on as co-sponso
rs of the legislation. A Capitol Hill source
told Dare earlier that constituent lobbying by
members of the gay/lesbian community was
instrumental in his signing on.
**LOCAL COLOR**

Compiled from STAFF REPORTS

**Chattanooga**

Alliance holiday fete Saturday

The recently-organized Chattanooga Gay and Lesbian Alliance will host its holiday gala this Saturday night, December 16, at Christ Episcopal Church, 543 McCallie Avenue. A cash bar and free hors d'oeuvres will be available at the event, which also will feature a dance. Persons attending are asked to bring a toy to donate the Chattanooga Fire Department’s annual toy drive for underprivileged children or to make a nominal cash donation.

“We’re trying to keep things sort of low-key,” said a spokesperson for the Alliance. “If we have 50 people, we’ll consider it a huge success. We just think it’s wonderful to be having an event for the gay and lesbian community in Chattanooga and to finally be organizing.”

**Clarksville**

New show opens at the Roxy

The comedy *Dick Whittington and His Cat* is the holiday offering at Clarksville’s Roxy Theatre, playing through Friday, December 29.

The company, located in Clarksville’s refurbished movie house, is known throughout the area for its varied theatrical offerings. For reservations, call (615) 645-7699. The show runs Fridays and Saturdays through December 23 and will run Tuesday through Friday, December 26-29.

**Knoxville**

GLSU prepares baskets for PWAs

Members of the Gay and Lesbian Student Union at the University of Tennessee are collecting donations for holiday baskets they are preparing for persons with AIDS in the Knoxville area.

AIDS Response Knoxville (aRK) is not planning any specific fund-raising for the holidays, but according to executive director Charles “Cowboy” Reece, donations will be accepted.

For further details about GLSU’s holiday projects, call (615) 595-8666. Details about continuing projects at aRK are available by phoning (615) 523-AIDS.

**Memphis**

Gay chorus forming

Singers are being sought to help form the Memphis Gay Men’s Chorus.

An initial planning meeting has not yet been scheduled, but organizers are developing a list of interested individuals. To sign up, visit the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center at 1291 Madison Avenue. Among topics to be discussed at that first meeting will be a formal name for the group and selection of a director and accompanist. Some 14 people had signed up, according to December’s GAZE.

“For those of you who cannot come out, there will be ample events geared only for our segment of the community, and we may be able to settle on a generic name to ease our transition into the Memphis scene,” said Center president Ken Horton.

**Murfreesboro**

Auditions set for February show

Auditions for the Murfreesboro Little Theatre’s February production of Christopher Frye’s poetic comedy, *The Lady’s Not for Burning*, will be held January 6 and 7 at 7 p.m. at the theatre, located at 700 Ewing Boulevard. The show’s plot concerns the Salem witchcraft trials. Roles are available for eight men and three women, as well as jobs involving technical and production aspects of the theatre. The show, directed by Steve Dees, opens February 23.

For more information, call MLT at (615) 893-9825.

**Nashville**

Angel Trees for PWAs

This year, for the first time ever, PWAs will be among those people helped by the Salvation Army Angel Trees in Nashville-area malls. According to Gene Copello, director of the Vanderbilt AIDS Project (VAP), you may designate that your angel on the tree go to the assistance of a PWA.

VAP worked closely with the Salvation Army to make this come about, Copello said, “and we are very pleased to make available this opportunity for people to help people with AIDS.”

**GCN reschedules ‘Two-Stepping’ for January show**

Gay Cable Network/Nashville has announced that *Texas Two-Stepping with the Girls*, originally scheduled to appear with the Atlanta Gay Men’s Chorus on December 16 at War Memorial Auditorium, has been postponed until January 27, 7 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Boulevard. For details, call (615) 254-8250.

“I think it will be worth the wait,” said Copello. “Just think, for $100.00 down plus closing costs, you can buy a home with a positive cash flow. Buy a home with a positive cash flow.”

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It's a Ray Conniff holiday

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES. Concept and original lyrics by Mac Pirkle, original music by Stan Tucker, Directed by Mac Pirkle. Tennessee Repertory Theatre. TPAC's Polk Theatre. Through December 23. reviewed by JEFF ELLIS

TENNESSEE REPERTORY Theatre's recreation of last year's delightful holiday musical, CHRISTMAS MEMORIES, is something of a disappointment — sort of like receiving a beautifully wrapped package with underwear inside. Schmaltz and sentimental, CHRISTMAS MEMORIES promises to be the perfect musical accompaniment for the hectic holiday season, but somehow lacks a heart. Many of the sentiments ring hollow and the 14-member cast never seem able to forget they are on stage.

Performed with all the charm of an Osmund family Christmas special, the show is a compilation of traditional holiday songs and evocative original pieces by Mac Pirkle and Stan Tucker. Despite some winning individual performances, Tucker's expert musical direction and the lovely set by Brian J. Laczo and Sam Craig, this year's production seems a pale imitation of last year's premiere.

What this year's edition of CHRISTMAS MEMORIES lacks is warmth and heart, the cast makes up for with insincerity. Essentially, the musical recalls the memories of holidays past as a group of friends gather for a Christmas Eve dinner. Opening with "Welcome to Our Household," the tone is set for an evening of warmth and celebration. Unfortunately, the cast performs as if they are presenting a Ray Conniff Christmas: a homogenized, watered-down, somewhat stereotypical evening.

Bah, humbug! Do I sound like Scrooge or what? I loved last year's show, so maybe I was expecting too much from this year's version (which includes several of the original cast members). Although some changes were made, including the addition of a wonderful scene with young Marla Miller (the scene-stealing daughter of TRT's Myke Mueller and Mary Jane Harvill), what is left is a competently performed show that lacks energy.

As last year's production, the Ricky Russell-fed rock and roll version of "Rudolph, The Red Nosed Reindeer," is the highlight of Act One, along with Ginger Newman's lovely performance of "The Christmas Song," and she opens Act Two with the hauntingly beautiful "Huron Christmas Carol." That's followed by the best number of the evening, Barry Scott and Kim Fleming's performance of "Away in a Manger." And Scott and Fleming give the ages-old song their own signature flourishes (Fleming's voice has never sounded more beautiful), turning it into a homogenized, watered-down, somewhat stereotypical evening.

An elegant holiday gift


The Royal Family is set for an evening of warmth and celebration. Unfortunately, the cast performs as if they are presenting a Ray Conniff Christmas: a homogenized, watered-down, somewhat stereotypical evening.

An elegant performance sets the standard for the rest of the cast who rise admirably to the challenge (much like the Cavendishes would, I'd like to think) from the leading actors to those in the smallest of parts, presenting a superb display of ensemble acting.

Music coming from a vintage Victrola effectively sets the mood for the evening's performances, one that's marked by surprising
CURTAIN

The secrets of Chaos

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

WITH THE FINAL CURTAIN ringing down Saturday night on the Nashville production of Cynthia Heimel's can't come to chaos, the five cast members and director Mark Cabus are still scratching their heads, wondering what all the fuss is about.

Since opening three weeks ago, the contemporary comedy about '80s-something manners and mores has set box-office records at Actor's Playhouse, the local stage for non-traditional, experimental and sometimes zany theatre. With curtain at 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, the cast have found themselves performing before sold-out audiences, earning rounds of applause and hearty laughter from the late-night crowds.

So what's the secret?

Much of the credit goes to writer Heimel, who has fashioned an amusing, though altogether realistic, tale of love, sex and dating in modern times. The script is a collection of monologues that fairly zing with crackling one-liners ("A friend asked for a copy of the script so she could use some of the lines on her own," said actress Edsonya Charles, who plays Cleo.) that tell a universal story of romantic woes.

Credit for the local production goes to actor/director Mark Cabus who, after seeing the show performed in Chicago, began to share news of the show with friends here. One thing led to another and before long the creative team at Actor's Playhouse (artistic director Dennis Ewing and producer Janet Claire) called Cabus with an offer to direct the show.

"The show has such universal appeal," Cabus said. "It's not a man-bashing show. The audience, they're not neurotic and really don't have a lot of problems."

But what about the crowds?

"The reaction has been more than I ever imagined could happen," Cabus said. "We had a great turnout for opening night. It could be because the people in this cast have good reputations in this town."

Cabus' cast includes Virginia Burke in the pivotal role of Cynthia, a magazine columnist looking for love in all the wrong places, and her cohorts Cleo, a scientist (Charles), and Rita, a sculptor (Reece Faw). They're joined by Mark DelaBarre, as Cynthia's ex-boyfriend Jake, and René Copeland as Lurene, a young married woman with a myriad of part-time jobs and an experienced eye.

Although during the show's run she's been known as Cynthia to her audiences, Burke says she's not much like her onstage alter ego: "Cynthia's much more extraverted and blunt. I think I'm much more subdued," Burke said. "I think I'd like to be more like her."

And I suppose that it some way Cynthia's an extension of myself."

Faw, on the other hand, said she was "amazed" by director Cabus' sensitivity and his deft casting abilities.

"I had prepared to audition for Cynthia, but he had me read for Rita instead," she laughed. "Rita and I have so much in common. She doesn't care what other people think and, I'll say exactly what she's thinking. I'm the same way."

Charles credits the fact that she was teamed with Faw during auditions as the key to her casting coup.

"Mark sent us out to work on the scene in the aerobics studio and we tried to think of ways to make it better," Charles explained. "Sometimes during an audition you're only going to be as good as the person you're auditioning with. Luckily, Reece was wonderful."

Reviews have paid much attention to the play's language — there's a fair smattering of four-letter words and invectives, you know, the way "real" people talk — and that may have attracted some audiences. But Charles is not so sure.

"The reviews have helped. I think when people read it wasn't family material, they wanted to come see it for themselves. They came ready to hear some trash," she said. "And it's a funny show!"

"I've been perplexed myself by the size of the audiences," said Copeland. "We've all been networking and talking it up to our friends, so I guess word of mouth is the best explanation for the crowds."

Her character, Lurene, is much like Copeland herself — a busy young mother, scooting from job to job. As the mother of two boys, aged 2 and 4, and the wife of a director, she says, "I am the person with children who does a lot of part-time jobs just like Lurene. She's the most centered person in the show. She may seem otherwise, but she knows what she wants. It's fun to try to be the calmest member of the cast."

For DelaBarre, the sole male in the cast, it's been "great working with all these friends. There's no pay involved, so it's all for love."

"Playing Jake, as well as all those other men in the Nashville dating pool, DelaBarre (happily married to actress Su Hyatt for four years) can identify with the show's plot and machinations. "Personally, I've always used comedy as a means of covering up insecurities, much like Jake does in the show. It's been cathartic for me, because friends and peers who have come to see it have said it's nice to finally hear me saying real words. It's a funny show to do and a funny one to listen to." •
only after historians have had their opportunities to dissect and examine the 1980s will we know just what the decade has meant to members of the lesbian and gay community. In retrospect, we find a generally mixed bag of happenings and events that helped to shape our lives during the decade, some marked by euphoria and joy, others marred by sadness and desperation.

It seems appropriate that in the decade's final year we have celebrated a milestone in our community's history—the 20th anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Riots, viewed by many as the start of the modern gay rights movement—while awaiting anxiously "our decade, the gay community. In retrospect, we find a decade's final year we celebrated a milestone in our community's history, as the lesbian/gay movement—while awaiting the 1969 Stonewall Riots, viewed by many as the start of the modern gay rights movement—while awaiting anxiously "our decade, the gay community. In retrospect, we find a decade's final year we celebrated a milestone in our community's history, as the lesbian/gay movement...

By bringing the events of the decade into sharper focus, we find our perspectives changing, our attitudes altered by past actions and the AIDS. Coming from all over the country in a united effort to make their voices heard, their concerns known, lesbians, gay men and their friends gathered in Washington for the historic March and rally. Mention the March to any of those who attended and you can still see its spirit alive and well in their eyes.

After a steady experience during the historic March on Washington, Tennessee lesbian and gay activism appeared to "come out of the closet" in the months that followed. Perhaps the most tangible results of 1987's heady activism was the resurgence of the Memphis Gay Coalition (now known as the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Coalition), the newly organized Chattanooga Gay and Lesbian Alliance, and gay and lesbian communities. In determining the top news stories of the '90s—no less as the lesbian/gay community is concerned—we found ourselves considering many stories previously considered milestones. Sometimes that proved the fleeting nature of life, while at others it proved life's constants. Often, it appeared that for every step taken forward, there was movement backward. At other times, the lesbian/gay movement remained stationary.

However, a number of events do stand out in our minds as we reminisce about the '90s, the ones which the historians will recall when their retrospectives are compiled.

- Without any doubts, the most important news event of the decade can be described with one word: AIDS.
- Without warning, the disease began to be found among the gay male population, spreading as way across the American landscape, eschewing the phrase "the gay plague" to become known by its true colors: a killer disease that requires us to play favorites. Bringing the American lexicon, much in the same way as polio and cancer had earlier, AIDS presented a medical mystery of the highest order.

As early as 1980, symptoms and diseases began to be reported in sufficient numbers to warrant informal discussion among the medical communities of San Francisco and New York and the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control. According to a CDC report, "In January 1981, the first cases of the illnesses now known as AIDS were reported from Los Angeles in five young men diagnosed with Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) and other opportunistic infections..."

Between 1981 and 1987, some 50,000 cases of AIDS were reported to the CDC. And since December, 1987, another 50,000 have been reported as the decade dwindles to its finale.

Tennessee's first cases were reported in 1982, and there are, as of October 31, 1989, 956 cases reported in the state. Thus far, there have been 549 verified deaths, with 95% of those men. Scientists and researchers continue to battle the disease, working feverishly to find a cure, to develop a vaccine. Their battles have been undermined by inadequate funding and lackadaisical public opinion.

AIDS has changed the American way of life—lesbian, gay, bisexual, straight—in the way no other event or malady has ever done. Some people formerly involved in political activism have redirected their energies to the fight against AIDS, others to the battle for women's rights, others to the pro-choice movement and still others to private pursuits.

- During 1988 and 1989, Tennessee's antiquated sodomy law became the focus of debate in the state legislature as the Tennessee Sentencing Commission—charged with the general assembly with the task of removing "archaic language" from the state's criminal code—proposed changes in the statute concerning same-sex acts.

Signed into law by Gov. Ned McWherter in June, the changes in the code were adopted by the legislature earlier this year. The statute concerning the state's "sodomy law" was changed from a prohibition on "carnal knowledge..." to a more specific ban on all homosexual acts. The changes decriminalized heterosexual acts and reduced homosexual acts to a Class C misdemeanor, carrying a sentence of not more than 30 days and/or a fine of $25.

According to the Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA), the section referring to homosexual acts, says that it is a "Class C misdemeanor for any person to engage in consensual 'sexual penetration' with a person of the same gender."

Tennessee activists had hoped the sodomy law would be completely stricken from the code, but after an abortive lobbying effort by...
same-sex couples may be considered families and suffered defeats, (the recent voter rejection of domestic partnership legislation in San Francisco.)

- The image exemplified by the struggles of Thompson and Kowalski provides yet another lesbian/gay profile in courage.

Often, it seems these tales are commonplace. Perhaps the most widely reported by the media were the coming out stories told by two Massachusetts members of Congress, Rep. Gerry Studds, exposed for an illicit relationship with a 16-year-old male congressional page during his first term in Congress, was forced to acknowledge his homosexuality during the '80s. Faced with re-election battles since his disclosure, Studds has been returned to Capitol Hill by wide margins by voters in his home district.

Following Studds' exposure, Rep. Barney Frank, fearing the potential political death such a media carnival could bring about, came forward of his own accord and told the public that he, too, is gay.

In 1989, Frank, considered one of the leading liberal lights in the House, became embroiled in controversy after a male prostitute made accusations of improprieties. He is under investigation by the House Ethics Committee.

- As Massachusetts voters reiterated their faith in two gay members of congress, the Bay State's legislature earlier this year approved the lesbian and gay civil rights bill which prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, credit, insurance and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation. Gov. Michael Dukakis signed the bill into law last month.

In 1982, Wisconsin lawmakers passed similar legislation, becoming the first state in the union to guarantee equal rights to all its citizens.

Earlier this year, the Iowa House of Representatives passed gay rights legislation, only to see the bill voted down by the state senate.

AND WHAT OF THE '90s? A concerted effort by lesbian and gay activists, working in concert with other human rights groups, could bring about sweeping changes in our lives. Or political infighting could spell an end to activism. Only time will tell. •
Some

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DEC 15-21, 1989

Semiotics and the male nude

NOBODY BELIEVES ME when I say I collect photographs of naked men because I'm interested in semiotics.
You've got your point, I have to admit. I really enjoy talking about how the idea of male beauty has changed along with changes in the culture and how, through gesture and camera angle, recent male physique photographs portray masculinity as more passive than earlier pictures did.

But, deep down, you and I both know there's nothing quite like a provocative composition of muscle and light and, possibly, sea foam. Even as a child, before I ever heard the word "semiotics," I collected photos of Gardner McCay, Robert Conrad and Sean Flynn without shirts on, scissored out of PhotoPlay and Silver Screen.

So, crucify me. But anyway, there's a new book by the master of male fashion/physique photography, Bruce Weber, he of the famous Calvin Klein ads, need I remind? And what is more, this book, eponymously titled Saucy Wars, is perhaps his most distinguished to date.

In 1983, Twelvetrees Press produced an expensive book of Weber photographs, a classic collection of pictures of brothers, lifeguards, clammers, competitive divers, sailors, Matt Dillon and Jeff Aquilone, a Weber discovery who was God from roughly 1978 to roughly 1982.

Three years ago, Knopf produced a handsome, but overpriced, oversized paperback, Rio de Janeiro, a chronicle of kickboxing and sex in Brazil. Weber donated profits from the book to AIDS research, which raised some eyebrows because the photos celebrate, said the eyebrows, just the sort of lifestyle that was responsible for the epidemic in the first place. The little-known jiu jitsu risk group, apparently.

Weber's new book could easily take for its title the name of the Cecil Howard statue which appears on the cover. American Youth. In this book, Weber combines, startlingly, images of precursors (all fully clothed, thank you, Miss Helm) and images of nude models displaying their anatomies more candidly than is usual in Weber's work.

Moreover, the book reminds us of two things:
One, that Weber is a documentarist, not just a fashion photographer for cologne and men's briefs.
Two, that Weber works very definitely in the tradition of Diane Arbus, who taught and encouraged Weber at the beginning of his career.

Recently, critics have accused Weber, for his Calvin Klein photographs, mainly, of aesthetic fascism. His models are almost always clean-cut, white American types - Little Richard's is the only black or "femme" face in the new book.

But looking at the book closely, one sees that Weber's view of American icons is not uncrirical. The dancing extras in bikini briefs and Roman helmets on the backlot of Zoetrope Studios are both maddeningly sexy and maddeningly insane. Weber's documentary eye not only urges us to admire singer Chris Isaak's Ricky Nelson good looks, but shows him flinching at the caress of his over-made-up but loving mom and the kitschy idolatry of the living room decor...
SEVEN ACADEMY AWARDS: best picture, direction, color cinematography, editing, color art direction, musical score and sound.

The hero a real one, the story based on fact. A whopping 222 minutes directed by an editor who traces an unlikely, enormously complex white man, who was probably homosexual, leading thousands of Arabs into revolt and self-determination during World War I.

The "pocket Hercules" was bastard British T.E. Lawrence, the cinematic over-achievement is David Lean's LAWRENCE OF ARABIA.

I missed it when first released in 1962, re-released in 1971, and when it premiered on television in 1972. In those ten years it diminished from its full-scale revolutionary premiere for Queen Elizabeth II with a running time of three hours and 42 minutes, down to a squashed version to fill the small screen with almost 45 minutes lopped off.

In 1989, I had the sense to get to Nashville's only remaining large screen, (God bless her and keep her always), the Belle Meade Theatre, to absorb the restored version from the front row. I was awestruck by the complex character of Lawrence and by the enormous difficulties of filming such an epic in the desert. As any one who has taken a camera to the beach will tell you, sand and wind and lenses do not mix.

As a general rule, I believe that feature films should be cut and kept to 90 minutes. 100 max. I wasn't bored with LAWRENCE. Lean's training as an editor kept the pace for all of the almost four hours. His transitions, cutting on sound, using the color fields of the desert that fill the frame to move time forward, are inspired grace. The compositions are elegant. They capitalize on the clarity of the desert that pops the people out against the white sand and blue skies. Maurice Jarre's (Dr. Zhivago, the man who would be king) sweeping, stirring strings render beautifully the haunting, staunch lyric score.

Lean works with the same people on various projects. Robert Bolt, who wrote the screenplay, collaborated also on Dr. Zhivago, and accomplished cinematographer Freddie Young shot Zhivago, the bridge over the river kwai and Ryan's daughter. In Lawrence, watch Young's magic as Omar Sharif materializes from a speck in a mirage shot with a specially designed 450 mm lens.

Although not a total newcomer, the credits "introduce Peter O'Toole." It's hard to believe that someone without vast cinematic experience could so convincingly convey Lawrence's egomania, his adroit, charismatic leadership, his conflicting appraisals of human life, his lust for death, and the desert, and his curious relationship to pain.

Lean dresses Lawrence in the purity of white, while the supposedly savage Arab leader, Omar Sharif, is dressed in black. This is a play on moral stereotypes. It is Lawrence who is the sadomasochistic killer who can deliver death in cold blood - within battle or without.

There is a question of historical accuracy in such an epic made even more difficult by the myriad myths that surround T.E. Lawrence. He has suffered numerous biographers, and, finally, Bolt claimed to have centered his tale on Lawrence's own account of the desert campaign in Seven Pillar of Wisdom. This runs 700 pages and Bolt had his work cut out for him to compress the events. He choose almost to ignore Lawrence's conflicts of conscience as he double deals the Arabs, promising them sovereign independence while maintaining a second agenda to serve his own Britain. Pacifist Bolt chooses instead to highlight T.E. Lawrence's passion for killing. O'Toole executes this insanity with a disturbing, lingering brilliance.

Bolt writes: "When men go to war their own best qualities are turned against them. Their virtues are made to serve the ends of destruction and waste. In time of war we need not look for a villain: the heroes are more than enough."

IN LIFE, LAWRENCE was a rather plain chap, almost five feet short. O'Toole is a powerful, six foot two. The real Lawrence was learned, charismatic, enigmatic, captivating and his power shone, as did O'Toole's, in riveting blue eyes that Lean forces against the desert sky. The first sweeping victory is the capture of the seaport of Ailaun that has Lawrence leading a stirring charge, overrunning the Turks. The sequence ends in a passionate, elegant pan that culminates in a view of useless guns permanently pointing out to sea.

In reality, Lawrence shot the brains out of his camel in a prior minor skirmish, and the Turks surrendered in the face of overwhelming odds. Such license is the stock and trade of the movies, and all viewers should always beware when a film purports to serve up history.

I've seen Lawrence again since the big screen Belle Meade presentation. It's a different film, and the black bands and the top and bottom of the screen keep the restored composition, but are distracting. It's still worth seeing, it's a powerful and a terrific introduction to a fascinating character of this soon-to-be-gone century.
John Barrymore, Thankfully, Harrell is a superb actor and wonderfully funny as her character is tackily "up" to advance her career. Frizzell is as the opportunistic actress who has married her character, it's a multi-hued performance that except the fact he's not a very good actor. 

adept at comedy in his role as Herbert Dean, award winning - best dressed.

deserves accolades.

Fanny's younger brother who refuses to accept the process. 

the Christmas Tree," and Russell does a funny self with a spirited version of "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," and Russell does a funny Elvis turn with "Blue Christmas."

As the party ends, Nan Gurley sings "Christmas Memories," the show's title tune added by exploring the past few sea-

triguing.

ters who are zany, eccentric and oh-so-intriguing.

But in addition to these wonderful veterans full of sentiment and warmth, made more so by Gurley's performance.

Then there's the jarring shift as the stage is changed for a Christmas Festival Medley and the obligatory sing-along (which sends a few cast members scurrying out into the audience for a little festive merrymaking). The festival medley includes some wonderful songs and the sing-along is fine, but why not include it in the party scene? It would be much less disruptive.

If you like Christmas music, then you'll find something to enjoy in CHRISTMAS MEMORIES. And, taken purely as a musical revue, CHRISTMAS MEMORIES succeeds.

...opposing viewpoints 

moral realm, tolerance, acceptance, and even affirmation would be preferable, but we recognize the rights of the individuals to their personal views and further suggest that these personal views simply are not the issue. Political choices, not private views, are what is at stake. Even if people think gay and lesbian sexuality is immoral, they can still, as a political matter, support the rights of individuals to make their own choices.

We can acknowledge moral conflicts on this issue and insist on a political climate in which both positions are respected. After all, moral views are deeply held and extremely personal and therefore subject to great variety.

Political choices, in contrast, affect us all. In order to preserve a climate in which moral debate and difference are possible, our political positions must reflect tolerance and pluralism. Tolerance, as a guiding principle, need not imply approval or disapproval of particular positions.

The strength of our moral convictions ought to convince us of the importance of protecting them. We reject the application of political power to compel moral assent.

As a minority, gay men and lesbians stand to benefit greatly from this kind of disjunction of law and morality. Sodomy laws are a familiar attempt to legislate morality, as are recent attempts to limit access to abortion. The attempt to control the gay and lesbian body is the same as the attempt to control the female body. We must assert the importance of the body politic.

In conclusion, may we suggest that Ms. Tek reconsider at least her politics, if not her morals (but that's another debate).

...Christmas Memories 

a soulful, gospel-style anthem. However, the rest of the cast (especially Evans Donnell and Janet Glowes), in a feebly attempt to echo Scott and Fleming's charged performances, seem to engage in a tiresome game of "I really get into this song." Please. Let Scott and Fleming do what they do best, and everyone else can just sing back-up.

From there, it's on to a '50s Christmas medley, during which Glowes redesigns herself with a spirited version of "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," and Russell does a funny Elvis turn with "Blue Christmas."

As the party ends, Nan Gurley sings "Christmas Memories," the show's title tune added for this year's production. It's a lovely song.

...The Royal Family 

performances from some fine actors, hereofore noted for their richly textured dramatic portrayals, but here playing characters who are zany, eccentric and oh-so-intriguing.

First on that list is Scott Moreno, who has displayed his talents in a variety of roles during the past few seasons. Now, he adds the role of dashing Tony Cavendish to his résumé. Based on John Barrymore, Moreno seizes the role, making it his own and obviously having a good time in the process.

Rick Harrell, last year's First Night award winning best actor, proves himself adept at comedy in his role as Herbert Dean, Fanny's younger brother who refuses to accept the fact he's not a very good actor. Thankfully, Harrell is a superb actor and presents a very believable and charming character, it's a multi-hued performance that deserves accolades.

As Herbert's wife Kitty, Rita Frizzell shines as the opportunistic actress who has married "up" to advance her career. Frizzell is as wonderfully funny as her character is tackily dressed.

But in addition to these wonderful veterans of past Actor's Playhouse productions, there are two newcomers — Jenny Wallace and Cristin Gardner — who give stylish performances as Fanny's daughter Julie (the current rage of Broadway) and granddaughter Gwen (soon to be the rage, if the Royal lineage continues).

Wallace is stunning as Julie, making her entrances with aplomb and grace as would any actress at the zenith of her career. Gardner, in the role of the attractive young ingenue, is lovely, her performance fairly dripping with 1920s joie de vivre. My only complaint is her apparent insistence on wearing one of those currently popular string bracelets (you know, the kind every kid in town is sporting). I just don't think Gwen Cavendish would wear something like that.

Others in the cast include Grant Houston, Dennis Ewing, Dan Hayes, Ingrid Somers (thoroughly delightful as the maid), Michael Hultet, Barry Lindsey and Troy Carrington.

I must confess my initial reluctance to see this show, THE ROYAL FAMILY, is after all one of my favorite shows. But director Toombs and cast have fashioned a production that is both loving and faithful to Ferber and Kaufman's script. And I say "thank you" for the gift.
Another tender Tennessee Christmas.

And Hannukah. And New Year.
Happy holidays from Dare, Tennessee’s first and only truly statewide lesbian and gay organization. Each week, we bring you reliable news, informed opinion, literate reviews and fascinating features – everything you need to know about lesbian and gay life in Tennessee, in one festive package.
That festive package also makes a great holiday gift that keeps on giving all year long. If you like, we’ll even include a gift card in your name.
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Talk about AIDS.
But talk with people who know what they’re saying.

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**Tis the season**

"THEY WERE the best of times, they were the worst of times."

In his masterpiece about the French Revolution, a tale of two cities, Charles Dickens wrote those immortal words, words which today serve as a reminder of the tenor of our times. They are especially poignant now, during the holiday season and as the end of the decade fast approaches.

During this season of remembering and revelry, it is important that we take time to remember those in our community who are without the warmth of friends and family, those who are troubled—either by financial difficulties or illness.

It is imperative that we recognize the beauties and the intriguing mysteries of life: that which is made up of happiness and sadness, joy and fear.

The season gives us cause for rejoice and an opportunity at introspection, an examination of our own beliefs, dreams and ideals.

The holiday season brings with it memories of past celebrations and the anticipation of fond memories yet to be made. It brings with it, too, reminiscences of friends and loved ones, and those whose lives are troubled. Our resolve should

**The conflation of law and morality in the case of abortion leads to dire results, not the least of which are the negative implications for the struggle for gay rights.**

**As is the case for women, the gay and lesbian community, and other similarly marginalized groups.** Indeed, her evocation of the specter of selective abortion as a central issue in the abortion debate is particularly misleading, and is perhaps only surpassed by the extreme narcissism of her concluding argument which seems to say essentially that "If abortion were legal, I might not exist." One can hardly imagine how this could be troubling to a non-existent entity.

Let us treat the issues systematically. Why is Tek's formulation of the mother's position as having no particular moral status. She opposes the presumed "right to life" of the fetus to the "convenience" of the mother. This clearly trivializes the profound needs of many women who seek abortions. By framing the debate from the perspective of the fetus, Tek ignores the concrete situation of the mother. This displays astounding little identification with or regard for other women and strikes us as misogynistic. The conflation of law and morality in the case of abortion leads to dire results, not the least of which are the negative implications for the struggle for gay rights.

**It’s HARD NOT TO be pro-life in some broad sense.** Even those who identify themselves with the pro-choice movement often express distaste and dismay with the idea of abortion; nobody, we suspect, really thinks that abortion is intrinsically a desirable procedure. Neither, we suspect, does anyone seriously think that an unwanted pregnancy or a potentially hazardous pregnancy is a good situation. In these situations, the anguish of abortion is entwined with the anguish of pregnancy. To talk about abortion without talking about pregnancy is simply irresponsible.

In response to Laura Tek's Soapbox piece two weeks ago, we would like to suggest that Tek has completely missed the point: she fundamentally misunderstands the issues and the significance of the abortion debate. She fails to articulate a theory of the proper relationship between law and morality and, consequently, misconstrues the implications of the abortion debate for the political future of women, the gay and lesbian community, and other similarly marginalized groups. Indeed, her evocation of the specter of selective abortion as a central issue in the abortion debate is particularly misleading, and is perhaps only surpassed by the extreme narcissism of her concluding argument which seems to say essentially that "If abortion were legal, I might not exist." One can hardly imagine how this could be troubling to a non-existent entity.

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**November 28, 1992**

Dear Dare:

On Sunday, December 10, It's A Scream Inc. hosted a holiday dinner and party for people with AIDS and ARC at The Chute in Nashville. I want to express the appreciation of the Vanderbilt AIDS Project staff for this opportunity provided our clients. We especially want to thank Jacki Moss for her efforts. This event demonstrates again the support for people with AIDS and ARC found in the Nashville community. It also reminds those of us involved in AIDS work that we are not alone in the struggle against this disease.

A. Gene Copello
Director
Vanderbilt AIDS Project
Nashville
PERSPECTIVES

Witnessing a controversy

by FRANKLIN BROOKS
Special to The New York Times

DESPITE A FIRESTORM of controversy over its $100,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant, the Artists’ Space show "WITNESSES: Against Our Vanishing," is coolheaded in conception.

Behind a black, cast iron facade, on West Broadway south of SoHo, it displays some twenty-four artists’ work in a spacious, white environment. Paintings and photographs, sculpture and fabric favor blacks and whites. Here and there lurid greens—the color of our green-backs—surface on a painting, on another generation’s enamelled hospital furniture, used surrealistically, on a broken flower vase.

Red rosettes stitched to block-print figures mark them for death; a red plaque reading "Died of AIDS" accompanies some labels.

No sex acts, at least in clear focus, some body hair, occasional male and female genitals, one penis erect: nothing to offend today’s average gallery visitor. No pictures of cancerous flesh, no pregnant women, no torture.

As for whether or not to fund the catalog, he did not have to worry. In its "Acknowledgement," Susan Wyatt had already pointed out that "it is worthy of note that this publication was not funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and, as they have requested, I would like to make clear that the opinions, findings and recommendations expressed herein do not reflect their views."

What more could Frohnmayer have asked for? What more has he achieved except further polarization of opinion and the creation of another overseeing committee in the overcrowded field of government support to the arts?

At least Wojnarowicz has got some well-deserved attention out of this; his essay deserves wider distribution. Its attack—angry, clever, rude and informed—makes a persuasive case for the dismantling of our "day to day illusion of the ONE TRIBE NATION," or conformity, by means of protest in art, and in public. He regrets the loss of his privacy but still affirms: "Each public disclosure of a private reality becomes something of a magnet that can attract others with a similar frame of reference; thus each public disclosure of a fragment of private reality serves as a dismantling tool against the illusion of ONE TRIBE NATION; it lifts the curtain for a brief peek and reveals the possible existence of literally millions of tribes, the term GENERAL PUBLIC disintegrates. If GENERAL PUBLIC disintegrates, what happens next is the possibility of an X-RAY OF CIVILIZATION, an examination of its foundations."

Wojnarowicz’s private reality embraces not only his homosexuality and his HIV-positive condition, but also the loss of friends and fellow artists to AIDS. Whether to be either artistic or political is a choice he refuses to make. Similarly, some of his photographs are composites of our shared experience—night views of the East River or an anonymous water tower—and scenes of intimacy, overexposed almost to the point of illegibility but still tender.

THE EXHIBIT Nan Golden has assembled records the friendships and professional lives of artists, gays and lesbians in large part, whom she has known on Manhattan’s lower east side for the past few years. Their art is as much about affection and shared dignity as it is about AIDS, which has decimated their community and destroyed talents they valued.

Still the networking goes on here, from one wall to another. Mark Morrisroe appears in a series of photographs of himself and in a portrait by Tabboo! Stephen Taishaje.

Peter Hujar did the photograph of Darrel Ellis that Ellis reworked in ink on paper. And Hujar’s death, two years ago at the age of 53, compelled Wojnarowicz to reject the comfort of conventional wisdom and to strip the "body of flesh in order to see the skeleton, the structure." Instead.

The number of artists who have turned to portraits is a noteworthy aspect of this interconnectedness.

David Armstrong’s well-lit photographs, recording the faces of his gay community, have the sophisticated look of Avedon fashion shots.

Dorit Cypis has photographed several women friends’ nude bodies in fragments; now she displays their snapshots, in individual frames, on shelves under a large idealized woman seen sleeping. This reconciliation is an act of healing.

The common frame juxtaposes pictures of gays taken in the 1950s with re-enactments staged today, now his friends are older, less mannered, leaner and he photographs them in black and white, not color.

In today’s self-conscious, self-reflecting art the act of capturing the image is but one incident in an artist’s story. Photograph by Mapplethorpe as well as Hujar, Darrel Ellis could not leave "these frozen images of myself" alone. He wrote everything down in a note; who stuffed it up my asshole so they would find it?

"WITNESSES: Against Our Vanishing." It is not just AIDS victims and their survivors speaking:

It is also this generation of artists who identify themselves and their art with a personal, political, intractable truth about the place of homosexuality among us. Society may not want to hear about it, but if it deprives them of a venue in art, their very lives, their anatomic, their flesh and blood, become its history. Susan Wyatt and the Artists’ Space have done our society a commendable service, with considerable private foundation and corporate support, in providing a safe place for thought to come to grips with these facts. Frohnmayer and the NEA should be proud to be in such company.*
Announcements

* COMING SOON: A very personal gift, from us to you. Stay tuned for details.
* The Chute is accepting applications for assistant chef & wait staff. Phone for information. Nashville, (615) 297-4571.
* Stuff your stocking at It's a Scream! Lots of stuff you won’t find anywhere else. It’s A Scream! 168 2nd Avenue North, Nashville, (615) 244-7346.
* I know you’re out there – a good, honest mechanic. I have an old car that needs your help. Nashville, DARE DRAWER 40.
* New lesbian and gay community meeting space needs interior decoration: chairs, lamps, tables, artwork, mirrors, bookshelves, rugs, ceiling fans. New or used. Nashville. Call GALLIP (615) 297-9008.
* WANTED: If you're reliable and conscientious, we're looking for you for commissioned ad sales in Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville. We’re also looking for someone to deliver Dare in the Tri-Cities, our newest delivery area. Great part-time pay. perfect for students, 2nd job, etc. Dare. Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone (615) 327-Dare.
* LONG HOURS. HARD WORK. LOW PAY. Dare is accepting applications from writers in Chattanooga, Clarksville, Jackson, Knoxville, Memphis, Murfreesboro, Nashville, the Tri-cities and around Tennessee. Learn community-oriented journalism, and be one of the best. Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone (615) 327-Dare.

Real Estate

* Inglewood one Bedroom apt $305/month. Lease/deposit. All utilities furnished, Nashville, (615) 226-7124.
* Commercial bldg over 1800 sq. ft, lot size 32’ x 85’. Central Business District. $80,000. Kathy Douglas, TEAM Realty & Auction, Nashville. (615) 228-2189 or 333-3330.

Personal

* You may have snowed the decorator, but I know one when I see one swish by. If. You. Know. What. I. Mean. GWM paraplegic, 37, seeks gentle, understanding companion. Send photo, phone to DARE DRAWER 41.
* LL - I’m remembering how wonderful last Christmas was and how sorry I am we’re not tree-shopping together this year. Remember that swarthy cedar we bought? Let’s give it another try, huh? Your mom won’t give me your number, so please call. I was wrong and I’m really sorry. - Bear

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- All ad prices are for two consecutive weeks. $10 for up to 100 characters, $20 for up to 200 characters and so on.
- Please print each character per box. Advertisers may use upper, lower, and mixed case.
- All ads are accepted at a minimum price of $10.
- No ad will be accepted without signature.
- Run time is two consecutive weeks.
- Responses will be mailed two weeks after the test appearance of the ad.
- To answer a drawer ad, write to: Dare Drawer F, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422.
- Ads returned by mail Tuesday will run the following Friday. Please enclose check or money order for total amount, payable to: Dare.
- Phone (615) 327-Dare.

**Tennessee’s waltz**

Tennessee’s waltz

"It helps. Does the list of disabilities include pedophiles?"
"Harkin: What?
"Hels: Ped-o-p-hil-e-s?
"Harkin: I can assure the Senator no.
"Hels: How about schizophrenics?
"Harkin: Schizophrenics, yes.
"Hels: Kleptomania?
"Harkin: Well, I am not certain on that.
"Hels: Manic depressives?
"Harkin: Manic depressives, yes...
"Hels: People with intelligence levels as measured on standardized tests such as the I.Q. test, which are so far below standard average levels as to limit substantially one or more major life activities, but who do not have any identifiable mental disease?
"Harkin: It is my understanding that they would be covered in this bill..."

"A scintillating exchange between Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) about the finer points of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), reported in December's Newsweek magazine. Kleptomanics have since been kicked out by amendment, the magazine reports, as have pedophiles, transvestites, homosexuals, bisexuals, exhibitionists, voyeurs, compulsive gamblers, pyromaniacs and current substance abusers.

"An indiscretion committed when he was 30 years old and in his first term in Congress came back to haunt Congressman [sic] Gerry Studds 10 years later. Studds served drinks to a male congressional page and then went to bed with him; he later took him to Europe. (This Platonic in the correct use of that term) incident, now nearly two decades behind us, lives forever in Bay State political lore. The page, who was 16 years old at the time, is now middle-aged, but he is described as 15 or 14 or even as young as some callers to the talk programs. We've heard [Rep. Barney] Frank's erastarian, who is 32, described as a teenager. At this rate, Studds' former page will turn 3, and Frank's bad boy will enter kindergarten. Once craziness gets into the air, the sky's the limit."

"Reason magazine's contributing editor David Brudnoy on those wacky radio talk show callers-in.

"You can never be too sure about those big-boned European women who don't shave under their arms."
"More wisdom from our favorite of the DESIGNING WOMEN, Suzanne Sugarbaker.

"I imagine that sex between a man and a woman is probably a very beautiful thing. But you have to understand it's something that's beyond me. When I was still a very young boy, I was taken to a whore-house for my initiation into manhood, and this woman made me look right between her legs. I don't know, all I could see was something that looked like a dyin' orchid. Consequently, I have never been comfortable either with orchids or women."
"The inimitable Tennessee Williams, to Elizabeth Ashley. Williams is spinning in his grave at the notion that Nashville Playhouse, which director Marianne Clark calls a 'family organization' that "does not condone or support the homosexual lifestyle," is planning a production of his masterpiece, THE GLASS MENAGERIE."

"In my plays I guess I have included every kind of sexuality but bestiality. But that's because I like animals too much."
"Tennessee Williams."

"We are not trying to imitate women."
"Tennessee Williams, on gay men.

"I'm not sure, but perhaps I can init."
"Williams, responding to a homophobic drunk's request for an autograph on his penis."

"Maybe they weren't punks at all, but New York drama critics. That mugging received better and more extensive publicity than anything I ever wrote."
"Playwright Williams, after a homophobic attack by a gang of marauding youths.

"I sleep with Mr. Williams."
"Frank Merlo, Tennessee's lover, in response to a question from movie mogul Jack Warner, "And what do you do, young man?"

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