



Happy New Year
Tennessee!

Dare

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 52

TENNESSEE'S GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

DECEMBER 29 — JANUARY 4, 1990

Too good to be true? LBI just may be

by JACKI MOSS
Staff Writer

There's an old saying that, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. This may be the case with an offer made by Life Benefits Inc. (LBI) from Irvine, Texas, and other companies like it.

According to an LBI press release, the company "offers a service that allows persons with AIDS to remain financially independent, even when they are no longer able to work. The corporation does so by purchasing existing life insurance policies owned by the terminally ill persons."

As good as that may sound, there are some serious considerations to be made before jumping on this bandwagon.

The company has been in existence six months and, according to LBI spokesperson Tom Hastings, there are no people with AIDS, gay people, or lesbians either employed by LBI or on a board of directors or advisory board.

"I talked with someone who is gay and he said we didn't need any of them on staff to do what we do," Hastings said.

Carisa Cunningham, spokesperson for Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in New York, was aware of several companies of this type popping up around the country but stated emphatically, "We do not support what they are doing for several reasons. First, it appears that they are in it for the money. If it wasn't for the profit, they wouldn't be doing this. They talk a good line of compassion for PWAs but they probably haven't personally met a PWA in their lives."

"A major drawback with this type plan is that once someone does it, the life insurance policy won't be there for the original beneficiary. Often the beneficiary is someone who has AIDS and will be left in a bad situation," said Cunningham.

Integrity responds to media coverage

Williams' ordination not the first, group contends

from STAFF REPORTS

Integrity, the nationwide ministry of and to the lesbian and gay community in the Episcopal Church, has issued a statement condemning what it calls misrepresentations in the mainstream media about the mid-December ordination to the priesthood of Robert Williams by John S. Spong, Episcopal bishop of Newark.

Integrity president Edgar Kim Byham called Williams' ordination "only the latest in a long series of ordinations of self-affirming, non-celibate lesbians and gays in the Episcopal church in the last 12 years."

"Since 1977, on average at least five open, non-celibate lesbians or gays have been ordained every year

in dioceses from coast to coast," said Byham. "Such ordinations have occurred in the Dioceses of Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, California, Chicago and Western Massachusetts, among others."

Byham asserted that United Press International, Reuters and others in the mainstream press had incorrectly reported Williams as the first non-celibate openly-gay man and only the second such homosexual person to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church.

In January of 1977, Ellen M. Barrett, an open lesbian and the first co-president of Integrity, was ordained a priest by Paul Moore, Jr., bishop of New York, a move that generated controversy within the church



Nashvillian Mike Lane is just one of the Tennesseans remembering the events that helped to shape our lives during the past decade. For his reflections, as well as those of other, turn to page 6 for this week's installment of "Eightysomething," our look at the '80s.— DARE PHOTO BY JIMMY CHILDERS.

She said that another important consideration is that PWAs receiving a large lump sum of money may jeopardize their public benefits status such as health insurance.

"If your health insurance is dropped, it wouldn't take long to run through a large sum of money on medical expenses, so it may not do you any good, after all," she noted.

Cunningham also said that it would be easy for someone to spend that chunk of money, "and then you'd be left right back where you were, only this time without life insurance for your beneficiary. I see this as a very extreme measure and one that I hope people

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Baptists to fight Journey

Peek says he won't bow to pressure

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Despite efforts by the Nashville-based Baptist Sunday School Board to keep a gay bar from opening its doors, the bar's owner says he will continue to work toward a January opening date.

Jerry Peek, owner of Journey — which when opened will be the city's newest nightclub catering to a lesbian/gay clientele — said that work continues on the club at 909 Church Street although a spokesperson for the Baptist Sunday School Board has pledged to oppose his application for beer and liquor licenses.

Bill Leader, attorney for the Sunday School Board, told the NASHVILLE BANNER last week that he has been instructed to fight to keep the Metro Beer Board from issuing a permit to Peek.

Peek goes before the Metro Beer Board on Tuesday, January 9, to apply for beer and dance licenses for the bar located across from the old Nashville Gas building between near Ninth Avenue.

The building in which the bar is located is backed by an alley which separates it from the parking lot of the Sunday School's headquarters building.

"We vigorously oppose what that club represents regarding lifestyle," George Willis, spokesperson for the Sunday School Board, said. "We

don't believe this kind of activity is in the best interests of the community."

Already there are two lesbian/gay bars located within walking distance of the Sunday School Board's headquarters — The Gas Lite Lounge and Al's/Victor-Victoria's.

According to the BANNER, the Sunday School Board is basing its fight against Journey on its perception that Peek's beer license application contains "inaccuracies."

Peek, however, contends that there are no inaccuracies in his application.

"Everything is in order in my application," he said. "They won't be able to trip us up on that."

The Sunday School Board's actions is but one of a series of travails that have plagued Peek during the preparations for opening. Codes inspectors for the city have cited him for violations on each of five visits to the club.

Each of those visits were made by a different inspector. That in itself is unusual, sources say, since one inspector normally is charged with a particular job.

After an appeal to the Metro Appeals Board, Peek was given a list "telling me what to do to comply with codes." However, a subsequent visit from yet another inspector brought still more directives.

Peek also said that Nashville

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Dare this week

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What we'll remember.
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Screens, page 11.



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Loose Lips, page 12.



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D A T E S

Big events



Clean. and Sober.

Sunday, December 31, 1989

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Dance Clean and Sober. Unitarian Church, 3224 Navajo Dr, Chattanooga. 8pm. Info (615) 267-7824.

Dance Gays and Lesbians in Recovery. Belmont United Methodist Church, 21st & Acklen Ave, Nashville. 9:30pm - 1am. Info (615) 292-6894.

Monday, January 1, 1990

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Open House Black and White Men Together / Memphis. 11am-3pm. Info (901) 726-1461.

Saturday, January 6

Outing FOOD FOR THE BODY, FOOD FOR THE SOUL. Black and White Men Together / Memphis. Brunch, at Spaghetti Warehouse, 1pm. Followed by visit to Memphis Center for Contemporary Art's EROTIC WORKS, 416 South Main. Info (901) 726-1461.

Monday, January 8

Meeting Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance reorganizational meeting to consider new bylaws. At It's a Scream, 168 2nd Av North, Nashville. 7pm. Info (615) 297-4293.

Consciousness Raising Title to be announced at meeting. Bring paper and pen. Black and White Men Together / Memphis. 7:30pm. Info (901) 726-1461.

Friday, January 12

Party DESSERT, DISH AND CLASSIC VIDEO. Black and White Men Together / Memphis. Bring your own snacks. 7:30pm. Info (901) 726-1461.

Saturday and Sunday,
January 13 and 14

Volunteer Training Vanderbilt AIDS Project, Nashville. Info (615) 322-AIDS.

Free publicity!

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 Monday for publication next Friday.

Chattanooga

Sundays

- **Lesbian & Gay CoDA** Co-Dependents Anonymous. Reflections, Harrison. 12:30pm. Info (615) 267-7824.
- **Metropolitan Community Church** Worship service, 3224 Navajo Dr. 6:30pm.

Mondays

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

Thursdays

- **Gay/Lesbian AA** Open meeting. Unitarian Church, 3224 Navajo Dr. 8pm.

Saturdays

- **Gay/Lesbian AA** No-smoke meeting. Unitarian Church, 3224 Navajo Dr. 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.

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 Codependents 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

- **Agape New Life Church** Bible study. 7pm. Info (901) 276-1872.
- **Phoenix** (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting.

Just like clockwork

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 services, 11am & 7pm. Info (901) 276-1872.
- **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.
- **AI-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

- **Family Support Group** Vanderbilt AIDS Project. Info (615) 322-AIDS.

- **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

- **Sexualities 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.
- **Community Dinner** Metropolitan Community Church, 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 (TAP). 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.

Statewide

- **Note** Most student groups suspend meetings when schools are not in session. Please contact groups directly for complete information.

Errata

• A headline in last week's Cross Country section (Volume 2, Number 51, page 3) should have read "Gay inmates wear red wristbands in Florida jail." We apologize for the error and are glad to correct the record.

• A typographical error caused a sentence in "America number one - a dubious distinction" in last week's AIDS Update (Volume 2, Number 51, page 10) to read incorrectly. The sentence should have read: "It is known that AIDS is in 177 countries and territories and that only 25 nations have yet to report an AIDS case." We apologize for the error and are glad to correct the record.

CROSS COUNTRY

compiled from STAFF REPORTS

Lesbian helps police clear campus tearoom

PHOENIX—Claiming that men looking for sex in a campus bathroom were not gay but thrill-seekers, a lesbian student at Arizona State University near Phoenix helped campus police arrest 13 men in a popular campus tearoom, OUT WEEK reported.

Donna Taylor, a graduate student in communications and former co-chair of the Lesbian and Gay Academic Union (LGAU) provided police with what she called "physical and psychological profiles" of likely suspects.

But Taylor has not been member of the LGAU since 1986, and the group's current co-chairs said they were unaware that she had collaborated with police until contacted by OUT WEEK. •

Sweden may follow Denmark's lead

STOCKHOLM — Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson has advised RFSL, the national lesbian and gay liberation group in Sweden, that he hopes Sweden will follow the lead of Denmark and legalize gay and lesbian marriages.

RFSL activists hope that Sweden will become the first country to legalize lesbian and gay adoptions as well, according to a report in BAY AREA REPORTER. •

Center plans mixed media exhibit by PWAs

NEW YORK — An unprecedented mixed media exhibition is set for January 11 through February 16, 1990 at New York's Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center.

"A Hundred Legends," the diverse collection of artworks by people with AIDS will open to the public for the first time. Men and women who have been diagnosed with AIDS or ARC submitted their paintings, graphics, poetry, prose and music, produced during the past two and a half years, for the collection.

The exhibition is being presented in conjunction with the publication of the portfolios of "A Hundred Legends." Proceeds from the sale will be distributed to arts-related activities and cultural groups for people with AIDS by DIFFA (Design Industries Foundation for AIDS).

For further information, contact the Center at (212) 620-7310. •

Efforts under way for Nat'l Lesbian Conference

ALBANY, NY — The interim task committee of the National Lesbian Conference met earlier this fall to further define the membership of the steering committee that will guide the conference planning process.

Meeting in Atlanta, this group of 14 lesbians are empowered to plan the conference set for April 24-28, 1991, in Atlanta.

Regional planners will be chosen at regional meetings which are being organized before the next large national planning meeting. The first steering committee session is set

for Kansas City on April 27, 1990. For more information about the conference or to get involved, contact Michelle Crone with the national office at (518) 463-1051. •

McKinney's lover sues for share of estate

BRIDGEPORT, CT — Arnold Denson, the self-proclaimed lover of the late U.S. Rep. Stewart McKinney, has filed an appeal with the Superior Court seeking to overturn a decision by a Probate Judge which prevented him from collecting his share of the congress member's estate. Denson has said that he and McKinney were lovers for five years and is entitled to the 40% share in the Washington home left to him in the will. The net value of the estate is over \$275,000.

But in a September decree, a Connecticut probate judge ruled that McKinney's widow was owed over \$375,000 from the estate, effectively negating Denson's ability to obtain his share.

The Republican representative died of an AIDS-related illness in May, 1987. •

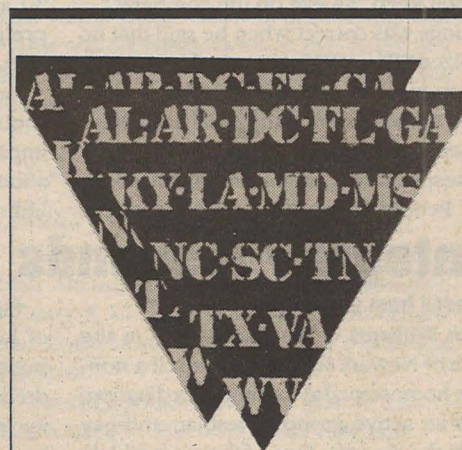
Vampire on gay cable show in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, PA — The local Gay Cable Network will begin a five-part dramatic series this month called ONE OF THE LIVING. The series deals with the relationship between vampire Christopher Staller and mortal author Arthur Bloom. It includes discussions between the two characters of gay themes like coming out and homophobia, according to the local gay newspaper, OUT.

ONE OF THE LIVING was developed by Raymond Yeo and David Schremp. It was shot entirely in Pittsburgh and includes a cast of local actors. •

Court clears record of sodomy conviction

NEW YORK — A New York State Trial court on December 1 vacated the guilty plea of a man convicted in 1969 under statutes since declared unconstitutional in New York. The court decision cleared his record of the crime of "consensual sodomy." •



Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men '90, the 15th annual meeting, will be held in Raleigh, NC, March 22-25, 1990.

ABBY R. RUBENFELD
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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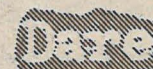
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 37411
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 Box 3932, Knoxville, TN 37927
 call (615) 523-AIDS

Aids to End AIDS Committee
 (ATEAC)
 Box 40389, Memphis, TN
 38174
 call (901) 458-AIDS
 24 hours call (901) 762-8401

Nashville Council on AIDS
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 Education and Services
 (Nashville CARES)
 Box 25107, Nashville, TN
 37202
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 (615) 385-1510

a public service message from Dare and Tennessee Responds to AIDS

...Baptists v. Journey

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attorney Lewis Laska, whose office is just down the block from Journey, has sent letters to the Sunday School Board, the Metro Beer Board, the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission and his landlord, calling Peek "a menace to public safety."

"He apparently went through newspaper clippings from way back to try to find something on me," Peek said.

In the letters, according to Peek, Laska mentioned four incidents from the '70s, linking Peek to fires at four gay bars in Nashville. Laska claimed that Peek "gained monetarily" from onne fire, in 1974, at the Watch Your Hat and Coat Saloon. Peek denied the allegation, saying that any insurance monies received

went to the the payee.

"The payee was my partner's mother. She received the money, which went no where in covering our losses, because she had lent us money to open," Peek said.

Other instances mentioned occurred several months — and in one case several years — after Peek was involved in any business at the locations mentioned.

"He [Laska] said I have a history of being involved in gay bar fires," Peek contended.

Just last week, Laska opened a "non-denominational church" just a few doors down from Journey. Under Tennessee statutes, beer and liquor licenses cannot be granted to businesses within 50 feet from a church.

Laska was unavailable for comment. •

...too good to be true?

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don't have to take."

Another aspect to consider is that when asked if any recognized PWA group, AIDS activist group, gay or lesbian group supported or sponsored LBI, Hastings said no, but that the Dallas Gay Alliance refers clients to them, so that is, in effect, support.

Pam Merrifield, an attorney and executive director of Dallas Legal Hospice who works in coordination with the Dallas Gay Alliance said, "It is not entirely truthful for Life Benefits to say we endorse or sponsor the group. We simply say that it is important to know all the facts before you decide to do this or not. If someone comes to me and asks about it, I'll tak with them about it and them give them the phone number, but we don't officially sponsor this type organization. We are not for or against it."

A person answering the phone at Dallas Gay Alliance said that he was familiar with LBI but, "We don't put their brochures out with all the other pamphlets. People who ask about it can get information on it. I guess it's a good thing if you really need it, but we don't really like it and see it as a last resort."

Merrifield said that she recommends that people consult their attorney before agreeing to this kind of offer.

"People need to know all the facts — facts like the IRS considers this kind of lump sum money taxable and once the IRS has their share, you are left with even less of the benefit that when you started," she said.

Although Hastings said that, according to the Attorney General of the State of Texas, LBI has "no problems from the legal standpoint," Merrifield said that the Attorney General's office will keep "an eye on the company."

Hastings was correct when he said that no recognized PWA, AIDS, gay or lesbian organization sponsored or endorsed LBI. In fact, very few of the leaders in the AIDS battle have even heard of LBI.

Spokespersons from the National Association of People Living with AIDS, American

Foundation for AIDS Research, AIDS Action Council and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force were all unfamiliar with the organization.

A person at National AIDS Network said he had heard of something like it, but had no first-hand information.

Hasting attributes this lack of endorsement on the fact that many of the groups receive state or federal money which he said prohibits them from endorsing a private enterprise.

Here's how the offer from LBI works: a PWA applies to LBI and if thier life insurance is an individual policy (not a group one) that LBI feels is workable, an LBI physician and pyschiatrist or psychologist examines the PWA and his or her medical records to determine life expectancy and mental competency.

Once the PWA meets the LBI requirements, LBI has the PWA and existing beneficiary sign papers exchanging a percentage of the face value of the policy to be paid to the PWA for a waiver of rights by the beneficiary and making LBI the beneficiary.

In general, PWAs with a life expectancy of one year or less receive 60% of the face value of the policy; 55% with a life expectancy of one year to 18 months; and 50% with a life expectancy of 18 months to two years.

The closing transaction is videotaped "to make sure no one comes back on us wanting benefits we didn't agree to," Hastings said.

There is a 15-day right of recision in which the PWA may pay back LBI for all money received and reinstate their insurance policy as it was previously should the PWA change his or her mind.

LBI said they have already processed 25 to 30 applications and said the process from preliminary application to funding takes about three to four weeks.

People with AIDS interested in this offer should consult an attorney to learn what impact it may have upon their specific situation before going into a contract of this type. LBI may be reached at (800) 969-6000. •

...Integrity responds

• continued from page 1

While Williams is the first person in the Diocese of Newark to declare himself a non-celibate homosexual at the time of ordination, there is an active group of lesbian and gay clergy in the diocese. One of the most widely known openly gay priests in the U.S. is Integrity National treasurer L. Paul Woodrum, a priest in the Newark Diocese.

"Since Integrity's founding in 1974, scores of lesbian and gay clergy nationwide have publicly declared themselves, and and hundreds more have acknowledged their sexuality in less public ways because of fear of homophobia in the Church," Woodrum said.

The 34-year-old Williams, who has lived with his male lover for the last four years, was a founder of Integrity's Dallas chapter. •

LOCAL COLOR

compiled from STAFF REPORTS



Members of the Conductors relax after their successful Christmas fundraiser for PWAs. The annual event was held last week at Warehouse 28 in Nashville. — DARE PHOTO BY JIMMY CHILDERS

Hendersonville

Rape charges dropped

Rape charges filed in December against a transvestite were dropped last week, according to the Sumner County district attorney's office.

Millissa Fox, 26, was charged "rape (by fraud)" in Hendersonville last week for performing oral sex on a man who said he thought Fox was a woman. After discovering that Fox was indeed a man dressed in women's clothes, the man reported the incident to the police.

"Our office dismissed the rape charge against Millissa Fox last week," assistant district attorney Dee Gay said.

According to police affidavits, Fox was driving down Gallatin Road in Hendersonville shortly after midnight December 12 and persuaded the other man to pull over into the parking lot of a closed business.

Fox performed oral sex on the man, who discovered a short time later that Fox was a man and order him of the car. •

Memphis

BWMT plans active January

Members of Black and White Men Together/Memphis have a busy month in store for them, according to BWMT spokespersons.

The new year will be ushered in with an Open House on Monday, January 1, followed by "Food for the Body, Food for the Soul," on Saturday, January 6.

The day's events begin with brunch at 1 p.m. at the Spaghetti Warehouse, then will move on to the Memphis Center for Contemporary Art, 416 S. Main Street, for the exhibit of works by Antonina Egan and H. Douglas Northern.

The chapter's board of directors meets Sunday, January 7, to plan the group's agenda for 1990, with the first consciousness raising session slated for Monday, January 8 at 7:30. The topic for that session is being kept under wraps until the meeting.

A variety of other social events are scheduled for later in the month as well as a "Hot,

Healthy and Horny Playshop" set for Saturday, January 27.

For details about any of the events listed, or about other planned activities, call (901) 726-1461. •

Nashville

Orr gets 37-year sentence

Onquinette Orr last week was sentenced to 37 years in prison for aggravated assault and second-degree murder in the death of her 4-year-old son.

Orr, 29, had testified that she is an alcoholic and a frequent user of cocaine and other illegal drugs, but that she does not know how her son, Corie Orr, received more than 40 bruises on his body or the head injury which left him comatose on April 13, 1987. He died the next day at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Orr said the boy appeared to be in good health when she went to work and left him with her ex-lover and housemate Brenda Harris at their home at 1802 Sweetbriar Avenue.

Harris, 29, was convicted on the same charges on December 8, after she testified that Orr caused the fatal injuries when she pushed Corie down a flight of stairs on the night of April 12, 1987.

Under questioning from assistant district attorney Richard Fisher, Orr testified that she and Harris were once lovers, saying that Harris was often jealous of her, even after they had ended their relationship, sometimes threatening her with a meat cleaver. •

T-GALA to consider changes at January meeting

Members of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) will meet Monday, January 8, to consider the adoption of new and revised by-laws and to elect a board of directors.

The changes are a part of a plan to take T-GALA into the '90s, a spokesperson said.

The meeting is set for 7 p.m. at It's A Scream, 168 2nd Avenue, North, Nashville. For further information, call (615) 244-7346. •

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A candlelight champagne and prime rib dinner

Three seatings:

6:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

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Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly

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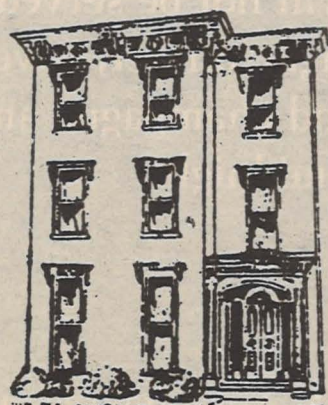
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1990

from STAFF REPORTS

Dare photos by JIMMY CHILDERS



THE RAPID ENTRANCE of a new decade makes many of us sit back and think about the past, as well as what is to come.

We all remember what the major news stories were in the '80s — AIDS, the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights — but it is the occurrences in our daily lives today which actually impact upon the '90s, our tomorrows.

We spoke with several people across the state, to find out what they will remember about the '80s. Here are just a few of their responses:

• **Darren Taylor:** "It was the re-start of gay politics. People started doing something. People started forming groups, and the movements all began. When I came out, in '81, I didn't know about Stonewall or any of that. Since then gay political awareness has come to the forefront. Now everyone knows."

• **Mike Lane:** "We've come a long way. I could live with the '80s."

• **Dana Alexander:** "The '80s were very wonderful for me, and hopefully the '90s will be wonderful for everyone else."

• **Margaret Coble:** "Music has been a big part of my life, so I'll remember all the music from the '80s. But probably the thing I'll remember best is dealing with the

whole process of coming out and being gay in the '80s. I was in both high school and college during the decade, so the experiences were interesting. In high school it was much easier because my circle of friends included a lot of gay and lesbian people. But coming to school at Vanderbilt, a very repressed environment, was much more difficult."

• **Bob McGhee:** "The Berlin Wall coming down. It is a sign of freedom and a sign that people working together can overcome anything."

• **Mack Ulrickson:** "I realized that happiness did not lie in corporate life. And I remember getting AIDS."

• **Bob Jones:** "The '80s? I don't remember the '80s."

• **Scott Key:** "I felt frustration. I felt that something was going to happen and it never did. I kept thinking that people would get together and start taking each other more seriously."

• **Pam White:** "The '80s brought me out of the closet, and saw a lot of good friends die from AIDS."

"I became friends with a wonderful person who is now my life partner and stepped out of the closet. I didn't even know I had been in."



Darren Taylor



Rita Ross (Pucci Lisenbee)

R P I E C E

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• **Tom Whisman:** "I remember Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and AIDS — not necessarily in that order."

• **Tim Demick:** "I'm very angry that my formative years were during the Reagan era. I used to believe in the American system but now I think that people in the government have a general disregard for humanity and don't really give a damn about people."

• **Anne:** "I became friends with a wonderful person who is now my life partner, and stepped out of a closet I didn't even know I'd been in."

• **Joe Rader:** "Naked self-interest."

• **Pucci Lisenbee** (Rita Ross): "It was such a blessing to be alive in the '80s, and I think it would be more of a blessing to be alive in the '90s."

• **Bianca Page:** "The '80s brought me much success as a female impersonator, but it also took away a lot of my friends due to AIDS. So, all I can say is that it was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

• **Diana Hutton** (Miss Gay USA 1987): "It actually has been the best time of my life, personally and professionally. Of course, the shadow and the specter of AIDS over the decade will always be like the black cloud that the '80s will be remembered by."

"But I think a lot of things have happened in the world to somewhat offset it. The research to cure the disease, the wonderful new-found freedoms that the people of eastern Europe are experiencing, and the overall surge for democracy around the world was a wonderful way to end the decade."

• **Kristin Moore:** "The more I got into the '80s, the worse my luck got."

• **Ed Denson:** "The '80s was a milestone for the gay community in Nashville. In the ten years I've lived here, we finally had our first Gay Pride parade last year. Now we've had two."

• **Jan Smith:** "Tennessee is so latent in its 'gayness,' especially the women, as far as their bars. In any other place, you find elite bars, women dressed up, you know? You come to Tennessee, you find bull dykes, women in blue jeans, boots and leather belts. And short hair cuts. What we really need is an elite bar, for women and men. A mixed bar." •



Ed Denson

1990

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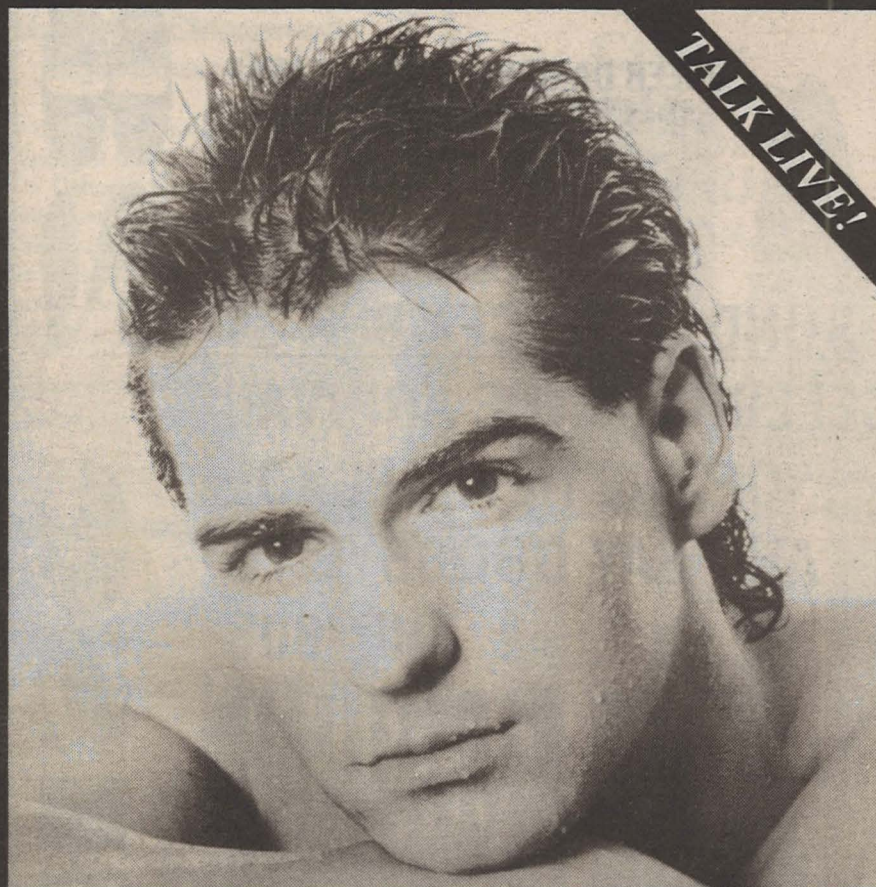
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CURTAINS

Magical and fantastic

THE NUTCRACKER. Score by Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky. Choreography by Dane LaFontsee. Nashville Ballet. TPAC's Jackson Hall. Through December 30.

reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**

Editor

NO HOLIDAY SEASON is complete without a performance of Tchaikovsky's timeless THE NUTCRACKER, the fantastic and timeless tale of battling mice and dancing fairies. After years of visiting troupes bringing the magic of the ballet to the state's capital city, the traditional holiday extravaganza is given a new and sumptuous mounting by Nashville Ballet.

Performed amid Craig Spain's stunning sets — a panoply of color and imagination — and Mimi Shimmin's exquisite costumes, the dancers of Nashville Ballet create an image that remains true to tradition while infusing the time-honored classic with a jolt of contemporary artistry.

The new choreography created by artistic director Dane LaFontsee is translated beautifully by the dancers, yet something is missing. LaFontsee's choreography seems rather pedestrian, void of the flourishes which transform the work into a flight of fancy. Certainly, the choreography is adequate, but it somehow fails to light a spark in the imaginations of the audience.

That is felt most keenly during the second act, in the series of international dances performed to entertain our young heroine Clara (Colleen O'Connell) during her visit to the palace of the Sugar Plum Fairy. Usually the highlight of the program, it's presented here as an anti-climax, largely void of energy and wit.

The Russian dance, usually such an audience favorite with its athleticism, was danced

with somewhat flat-footed grace by Edward Dubell and Paul Vasterling.

With the exception of the lovely "Waltz of the Flowers," Act Two is generally disappointing, even the eagerly awaited *pas de deux* of the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier (danced by Karen Portner and Barry Gager on opening night).

The evening's most brilliant dancing came during Act One's *pas de deux* of the Snow Queen and King. Company members Kathryn Beasley and Keith Scheaffer were ideally suited for LaFontsee's choreography, creating a vision of grace and grandeur in their magical snow kingdom. Scheaffer, espe-

cially, deserves praise for his controlled athleticism — it's by far his best performance to date with Nashville Ballet.

BUT DESPITE such quibbling, Nashville Ballet's production of THE NUTCRACKER is certain to become an enduring tradition, offering as it does an opportunity for even the most "balletophobic" among us to enjoy the artistry of the dance.

And any performance that is presented with such heartfelt enthusiasm is to be applauded.

From the smallest of parts to the most difficult, the ballet is winningly performed by a talented cast.

It's a superb holiday gift from all those concerned with mounting the magnificent production and Nashville audiences are indeed grateful. •



...Janet Flanner

• continued from page 9

Loyalists. Wineapple negotiates this territory deftly, and one of her most fascinating passages concerns Flanner's defense of Kay Boyle against charges of communism and subversion. Flanner's risky and defiant act — she jeopardized her own status as an American foreign correspondent and was severely reprimanded by NEW YORKER editors — stands as a symbol of Flanner as a moral human being.

Wineapple is, in many ways, very gentle with her subject though she does not conceal Flanner's weaknesses or apologize for them. Janet was often despondent, complained of a lack of the willpower and discipline need to write well, felt unappreciated. Wineapple describes a Flanner that was a loyal friend and an indefatigable worker, but who was so consumed by self-doubt that she required constant reassurance from lovers, friends and

editors in order to function.

This litany of Flanner's complaints not only becomes tiresome, it presents a puzzle that Wineapple does not solve. Janet was obviously a charismatic, tremendously attractive woman. She maintained intimate relationships with three women over the course of half a century somehow never quite losing an old lover when she gained a new one. In 1971, she was 79 years old and in poor health, but still concealing her ties with Noel from Solita, those with Solita from Natalia.

Wineapple does an excellent job of presenting Janet's loyalty, bravery, commitment and fragility. What is missing is the spark that must have been there, Janet the enchanting, erotic being.

I don't think it is Wineapple's fault. Janet Flanner still maintains the privacy she guarded so well, still reveals only what she chose to be revealed. •

PAGES

The enigmatic Genêt

GENÊT: A BIOGRAPHY OF JANET FLANNER. Brenda Wineapple. New York: Ticknor and Fields.
1989. 352 pages. \$24.95.

reviewed by **SHERRE DRYDEN**

Book Editor

FOR OVER 50 YEARS, from 1925 until shortly before her death in 1978, Janet Flanner, writing under the pen name Genêt, chronicled French culture, news, politics and fashion for the readers of *THE NEW YORKER*.

Along with her regular "Letters from Paris," discussions of everything French from food to DeGaulle, Flanner contributed longer profiles of major figures like perfumer François Coty; painters Henri Matisse and Georges Braque; Marshal Henri Pétain, president of Vichy France and writer André Malraux. Flanner's writings were no mere observations, however. For the same 50 years saw the debut of René Clair's *LE CHAPEAU DE PAILLE D'ITALIE* and Sergei Diaghilev's new ballet at Théâtre Sarah-Bernhardt, read Jean Cocteau's

LES ENFANTS TERRIBLES.

Flanner, more than most of the Americans who went to Paris in the '20s, became as much French as she was American.

But Flanner was also the chronicler, for readers of *THE NEW YORKER*, in those same letters and profiles, of another community. Part French, part American, part British — indeed, an international group of

women — this was the community of lesbians who found not only the personal freedom that drew Edith Wharton and Ernest Hemingway to Paris, but also a degree of sexual freedom they could not have in the United States or England.

Among the paragraphs about the assassination of French President Paul Doumer, Georges Simenon's latest book and Maurice Chevalier's performances, Flanner drops, nonchalantly, with great compousure, comments on *THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ALICE B. TOKLAS* ("Miss Toklas is the friend who lives on the Rue de Fleurus with Gertrude Stein"); fancy dress balls attended by "Miss Dolly Wilde in the habiliments of her uncle, Oscar Wilde" and Natalie Barney, "the *amazone* of Remy de Gourmont's letters" and a dramatization of *THE WELL OF LONELINESS*.

Flanner's own involvement in the lesbian community remained private, secreted by her pen name. References to her own lovers, writer Solita Solano, war relief organizer Noel Haskins Murphy, journalist and editor Natalia Danesi Murray, are rather conspicuously absent from Flanner's public writings. But Genêt made sure that the existence of Barney and Stein, Sylvia Beach, Djuna Barnes, Romaine Brooks, Margaret Anderson and others was known. through her won importance — everyone who was anyone read *THE NEW YORKER* — she assured that the influence of these lesbian women of arts and letters was known to the world.

Before the publication of Brenda

Wineapple's biography, *GENÊT*, the only sources of information about Flanner herself were brief references in the memoirs of people like Kay Boyle and Sylvia Beach, Flanner's own explication of her public writing in collections like *PARIS WAS YESTERDAY* and *DARLINGHISSIMA: LETTERS TO A FRIEND*, Natalia's edition of her letters from Janet published in 1985.

The letters are wonderful, moving and revealing documents of Flanner's private thoughts. But Murray is not explicit about her relationship with Flanner, the letters cover only the '40s through Janet's death and in *GENÊT* Wineapple makes it clear that Flanner guarded her privacy so closely that Natalia knew only what Janet was willing to reveal.

GENÊT is an essential source, not only for readers interested in Flanner, but for those fascinated, as I am, with the lesbian community in Paris.

GENÊT is a comprehensive biography, beginning with Flanner's birth in Indianapolis in 1892, and including substantial information about her childhood and youth, her early relationships with her

mother, father and sisters and the pre-janet lives of her parents and grandparents. This background information is, I suppose, necessary.

Flanner was tremendously influenced by her relationship with her mother, Mary Hockett Flanner, who had aspired to be a great actress and who, according to Wineapple, "rather resented family life and didn't take easily to motherhood, considering it the major obstacle to her career."

Janet, who started out as a film critic but wanted to be a novelist, who received an honorary degree from Smith College, was made a knight of the French Legion d'Honneur and received a National Book Award for *PARIS JOURNAL*, struggled all her life with feeling that she had never fulfilled her mother's dreams for her. Still, these chapters are a tedious beginning, a hard 76 pages for a reader not already passionate about Flanner.

WINEAPPLE DOES a much better job of placing Flanner in the context of the expatriate world. A quick sketch of the situation is the only introduction needed. She picks up the characters and events as she goes, not an easy job considering the sheer numbers of people Flanner knew well and the continuous comings and goings of the whole crowd. It would have been easy to get bogged down in the partnerings and un-partnerings of these women, in who did and who did not become disciples of Gurdjieff, who was and who was not sympathetic to Hitler or to the Spanish

• continued on page 8

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VIEWS

Say hello to the '90s

AS A NEW DECADE begins, it offers an ideal opportunity for increased activism and growing interest in lesbian and gay society. Perhaps the most important resolution one can make in 1990 is to take a more active role in the community, letting one's voice be heard along with all the others.

Often it seems that too many of us leave the work and the decision-making to others, depriving ourselves of the experience of involvement and depriving others of our unique perspectives and expertise. Now is a good time to set that attitude aside and to play an active role in our own destinies.

The new decade is sure to be filled with change. If those changes are to be good ones for the lesbian and gay community, it is essential that we all work toward a common goal. An infusion of new blood is needed to jolt our community out of the complacency of the '80s.

INCREASED ACTIVISM is not confined to carrying signs on a picket line or taking part in demonstrations, but comes about from increased awareness, a growing realization of what's going on around us. It might be as simple as writing a letter to the editor or calling an offending radio station. Or it may be as personal as coming out to a friend. At any rate, welcome to the '90s. •

BOX 40422

Dear Dare:

I read with a sense of pride your article "Sasser signs on as co-sponsor." I feel that perhaps my recent correspondence with Senator Sasser regarding WKDF-FM and anti-gay violence may have helped persuade him to co-sponsor this important piece of legislation. Attached you will find additional correspondence from the good senator.

It is with this letter that I encourage each and every reader to send a letter of thanks to Senator Sasser. I have the proof in hand to show that one letter is worth a thousand words.

Senator Sasser's Washington address is as follows:

Senator Jim Sasser
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Thank you again for your continued support of our community! I wish the best of the holiday season to you.

John Alan Herbers
Nashville

Dear Mr. Herbers:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to WKDF-FM regarding violence against homosexuals. It's good to hear from you.

It is always helpful for me to have the views of my constituents. I will appreciate your continuing to give me the benefit of your thoughts on other matters of mutual concern.

Please let me know when I may be of any assistance.

Best wishes to you and your family for a Happy Holiday Season.

Jim Sasser

United States Senator

Dare

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

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

Volume 2, Number 52

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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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ARCHIVES

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

SOAPBOX

Telling gay stories

by CHUCK FORESTER

Human Rights Campaign Fund Board Co-Chair

ANN LANDERS doesn't usually tell her readers off. That's why it came as a surprise to see the two recent columns where she came down firmly against readers who attacked the idea of gay marriages. One subtle writer from Wisconsin had put the case for bigotry rather bluntly: "Those faggots should go back in the closet where they belong."

Ann's response was right on target, stating her shock at the "viciousness and intolerance" of those opposed to legitimizing gay relationships.

Mixed in with the anti-gay sentiments Ann printed were letters of support, many from heterosexuals who knew a gay man or lesbian. One father wrote that he had two sons, one straight and one gay. Both deserved the same rights, he said. His response should not have surprised me, because it only confirmed a point that pollsters discovered some time ago: support for gay rights is greatest among those who know a gay person.

Unfortunately, many heterosexuals know only what they learn from the mass media. Ten years later lesbian/gay stories were beginning to appear. Today the power of gay politics and the AIDS epidemic have put us on the front page of every major daily in America and the evening news. Despite the attention, to most Americans, gays and lesbians remain an unknown quantity; we're an abstract entity, not people with hopes, dreams and lives.

Until we tell the public who we are they have little to go on. For example, their images of gay men are often limited to the religious right's slanderous view of us as sexual perverts, the popular media's vision of a misunderstood boy next door dying of AIDS, and the traditional stereotypes of the mincing hairdresser and the lesbian mechanic. With the exception of a few accurate depictions of gay diversity seen on little-watched PBS documentaries, the majority of heterosexuals have little else.

While few of us will have the impact of a Barney Frank or Gerry Studds, all of us can make a difference. Too often we are shy about sharing our personal stories with friends, family and coworkers. They, in turn, are reticent, fearful of offending by asking questions.

In some cases family and friends don't know enough about gay people to begin framing the questions they might have. Still, they want to know who we are.

I know from experience the kind of questions they have. When did you discover you were gay? Have you ever faced discrimination? How do you meet other gay people? How did your parents react? Do you enjoy being gay?

All of us should start answering those questions for the heterosexuals we know. The more we talk about being gay, the more our neighbors, friends and families will understand the need to combat homophobia and bigotry. Our answers will give them information that can replace the stereotypical views of gays and lesbians with a more honest view of who we are. Just as important, our answers can forge new allies in the fight for equality.

It is time we start telling non-gay Americans about who we are. In the process we enrich our lives and theirs.

Our stories are often very interesting. First of all, each of us lived part of our life as two people: as the private, fearful gay man or lesbian and as the apparently straight colleague or friend or child. We have been forced to think long and honestly about who we are. We have some experience in differentiating between what we'd like to believe about ourselves and the truth.

Whether we like it or not, gay men and lesbians are hot news today. After years of effort and struggle, the issues of importance to the lesbian and gay community are now on the national agenda. Decisions that affect our future are going to be made in the next several years. If we want those decisions to be positive, we have to tell the world more about ourselves. We have to provide the evidence that gays and lesbians are everywhere.

SOME MAY RESIST, but most people who know you want to hear your story. We can make the world we share with others a little less tense and a lot more honest by telling the stories of our lives. It is an important part of building the better place that all of us want to leave for the next generation of lesbians and gay men. •

Harvey Predicts...



Barbara Bush Comes Out "Pro-Choice"



The Joint Services Admit Homosexuals into the Military



The South African Government Unravels



Ending Apartheid...

Jim Bakker Finds true Love in Prison, Tammy Joins a Convent



Well I can hope can't



DARE CARTOON BY LESLIE GUERIN-HAINES

S C R E E N S

Nasty tale of the Roses

THE WAR OF THE ROSES. Directed by Danny DeVito. Screenplay by Michael Leeson, based on the novel by Warren Adler. Starring Kathleen Turner and Michael Douglas.
reviewed by **F. LYNNE BACHLEDA**
Staff Writer

THE WAR OF THE ROSES is a nasty movie. As a smart friend said, "It's like watching a terminal illness in progress." That's something we've all had too much of already.

Kathleen Turner and Michael Douglas meet over things and part over things. Danny DeVito, as Douglas' divorce lawyer, tells the tale in flashback of the dissolution of their marriage and relationship.

If you could make any movie with Turner and Douglas — two bankable, accomplished actors if ever there were some — would you look at the saddest heart of human sorrow and call it funny? Would you exploit the tragedy of promised love goes sour to the point of no return?

Equally tragic, Danny DeVito (the ratings game, throw momma from the train) directs your eye through to his vision of human relationships from behind the lens, and he knows how to make a movie.

The man can really exploit the camera with a wonder that ought to see a better story. For example, when Douglas is freed from his imprisonment in the sauna by Turner, he flops out onto the floor. He has been baked within inches of his life, and as he rolls on his back we see his vision of the world turning upside down. The editing, too, is stylish, the cutting falling right on the mark. A chandelier can take forever to hit bottom.

What a waste of talent, and to say what? I don't want DeVito's version of life. His comedy simply isn't funny.

What's funny about watching a husband stalk his wife in their elegant home with a tire iron?

What's funny about seeing her wake up nursing bruises through the burnt sunlight of day?

What's funny about watching her bitterly bite his love?

All these dire expressions and many more are in theory, but not in fact, offset by the believable romantic and sexual tension be-

tween two very attractive actors. Matters are made worse for those of us who really enjoyed **JEWEL OF THE NILE** for its contemporary, acrimonious, yet romantic, love set down in delight.

In **ROSES**, in a literal twist, Kathleen Turner's character is a gymnast. This makes for some good visual gimmicks such as when she cartwheels down a staircase or swings from her knees from the chandelier in relative assurance. But the desperate realities surrounding these stunts count little against such a sad story.

James L. Brooks produced this mean-spirited movie with Arnon Milchan. Brooks, who directed the gut-wrenching **TERMS OF ENDEARMENT**, and the moving comedy **BROADCAST NEWS**, must have been seduced by the box office promise of the stars. He much have

been seeing stars and dollars to belabor this lack of love.

These characters are basically good people whose love has gone off — his to himself calling it her, and hers to herself calling enough, or lack of it, enough. You see, this movie is very close to real life. Exploiting this heartache is an option, but a bad one. I like

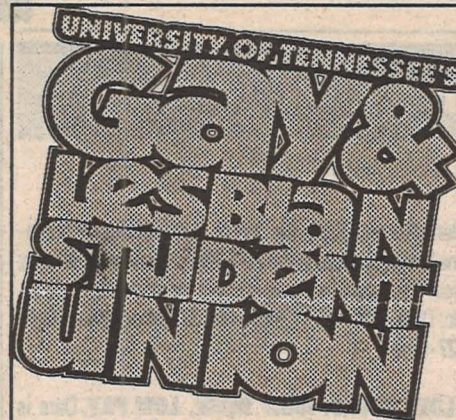
black humor as much, or more, than the next person. I wasn't laughing and neither were many of the other Saturday night patrons who are generally primed to have a good time.

The opening credits are a perfect visual metaphor for the whole of the film. The camera moves tightly over elegant white linen that is beautifully textured and exquisitely lit for every nuance of form while tall, sophisticated type in slender black fades in and out. At

the close of this sequence the camera pulls back and DeVito blows his nose into what you've been watching. Get the picture?

PLEASE DON'T TAKE this review for fuel to see this movie. Don't go see **THE WAR OF THE ROSES**. They don't need the money and you don't need the pain. •

If you could make any movie with Turner and Douglas — two bankable, accomplished actors if ever there were some — would you look at the saddest heart of human sorrow and call it funny?

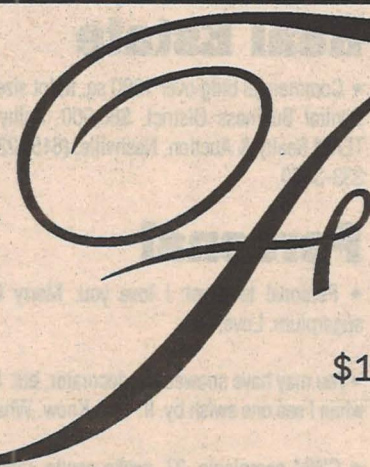


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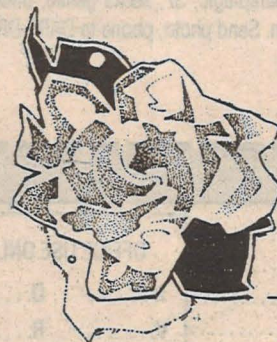
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MARKET

Announcements

• **CHASE AWAY THE WINTER BLUES:** We're proud to announce **FREE PERSONALS**. Meet new friends. Start a reading group. Or just say your piece to lesbian and gay Tennesseans, and we'll pick up the tab. Send us your personal ad (up to 200 characters) with the words "free personals" written across the top of the form below, and your ad is free. Don't just sit there — grab a pen and get personal!

Ads must be postmarked on or before January 31, 1990. Don't forget to add \$5 for response drawers. We reserve the right to edit or to refuse any ad. Offer not good for announcements, sales, real estate or commercial classified ads.

• It's a Scream! We now have books and lots of stuff you won't find anywhere else. They're here! Black long-sleeve t-shirts with pink triangle. 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, artworks, mirrors, bookshelves, rugs, ceiling fans. New or used. Nashville. Call GALLIP (615) 297-0008.

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• 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

• Personal to Janet: I love you. Merry Christmas, sugarplum. Love, Pat.

• 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.

LOOSE LIPS

More tabloid teases

"When it comes to love scenes, some cast members get a little squeamish. But there will be kissing, and it won't be pecks."

— **David Gadberry, producer-creator of PASSIONS, a gay-oriented soap opera that will premiere on leased-access channels across the country in January.**

"He [Gadberry] has no outlet for it because no network is interested in programming for homosexuals. America will not accept it. We'll find out which companies pay the bills for it."

— **Donald Wildmon, the Tupelo, Miss., minister who heads the American Family Association, on his group's efforts to lead an advertiser boycott of sponsors of PASSIONS.**

"Flamers of the Year: the flag, Steve Goble and the Brazilian Rain Forest."

— **from ESQUIRE's "Dubious Achievements of 1989" in its January, 1990, issue.**

"It's a word to describe somebody that is basically a pain in your life, a program."

— **Rocker Axl Rose to ROLLING STONE about his use of the word "nigger" in the lyrics of one of his songs.**

"I don't need them in my face or, pardon the pun, up my ass about it."

— **The articulate Mr. Rose, this time on homosexuals.**

"I'm done with transsexual whatever's."

— **Talkfest maven Geraldo Rivera, bemoaning his reputation as the king of tabloid TV, on his show's "kinder, gentler" direction for the '90s. Or at least we assume he was talking about his show. Maybe not.**

"The controversy over whether homosexuals should be ordained as clergy and the demand for toleration toward gays are yet other sad indications that modern Christianity is decaying into little more than a high-minded social club."

— **Steven H. Parker, of New Britain, Conn., in a letter to TIME magazine, responding to a story about lesbians and gay men in the clergy which appeared in TIME in November.**

"I think your article perpetuates the myth that homosexual people have a certain lifestyle for which they seek the church's endorsement, when in fact gays lead lives every bit as diverse as those of nongays and are merely looking for the right of participation, not endorsement. Enlightened thinkers within our churches are beginning to realize that spirituality is a human concern that extends to everyone, not just heterosexuals."

— **Philip Bockman, of New York City, in a letter to TIME magazine.**

"Cher Shattered As Daughter Chastity Tells Her: I'm Gay"

— **This week's cover story from the STAR, a supermarket tabloid. And no, this does not**

mean that we sit around reading trash, eating bon-bons and watching soap operas. We watch JEOPARDY, thank you very much.

"Mom, I'm gay. I'm involved in a lesbian relationship."

— **Chastity comes out to Cher, according to the STAR.**

"It was as if Cher had been shot with a gun. She screamed in disbelief and turned her head away."

— **Cher's reaction to Chastity's news, according to a "family friend."**



Chastity and Cher: Well, we always thought so. — DARE FILE PHOTO

"Cher felt she had somehow failed, even though she always knew that having a mother like her would probably make it very, very difficult for the daughter to follow in her footsteps... She wanted Chastity to be like her — sexy. She has always tried to glamorize Chastity, to make her more feminine and pretty.... Cher wanted to keep her thin, because Chastity has had a weight problem. But in her later years as a teenager, Chastity refused Cher's cast-off clothes."

— **More inside scoop from the STAR. If that's the case, we were wondering if we could have that gorgeous Bob Mackie number Cher wore on the cover of TIME some years back.**

"To save herself from becoming estranged from her only daughter, family members have convinced Cher to accompany Chastity to joint therapy sessions in an effort to understand the girl's sexual preference — shared by eight percent (one in 12) of American women."

— **Writers Barry Levine and Kate Caldwell, writing in the STAR.**

"Roseanne Cancels Wedding After Druggie Lover Cuts Her With Broken Bottle"

— **More incisive reporting from the STAR.**

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