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Hello, Johnson City!
Hello, Kingsport!**

Dare

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

JANUARY 12, 1990

T-GALA adopts new bylaws, elects board

by JACKI MOSS
Staff Writer

In a meeting of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) Monday night, the group officially adopted a new set of bylaws and a board of directors that they feel will put the organization on the right track for a more active and powerful future.

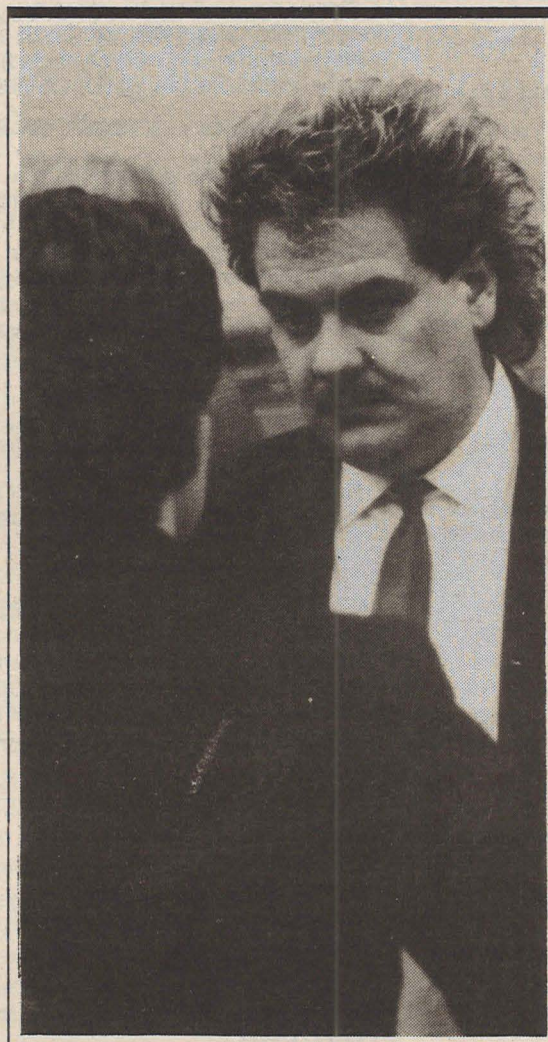
In a memorandum to the T-GALA membership, the Ad Hoc Committee to Restructure T-GALA said that renewed energy was needed for the future and that a board of directors would give the group more centralized leadership. They also felt that by amending the bylaws, new and exciting programs could be developed and there could be a greater focus on fundraising to underwrite the basic goals of T-GALA and to hire an executive director for the group.

According to the bylaws, "The purpose of the Alliance is to challenge laws, policies and attitudes which serve to segregate, discriminate or foster prejudice against lesbians and gay men. The Alliance exists to provide a mechanism to mobilize and channel the influence and resources of gay men and lesbians in order to impact legislation, influence public officials, and present positive images of lesbians and gay men in the media."

Although T-GALA is based in Nashville, the group will work toward development of a statewide gay and lesbian organization. Also in the future, T-GALA hopes to add a separate tax-exempt foundation component to which people can make tax deductible donations to T-GALA.

Future plans also include the eventual hiring of an executive director as a paid staff person. As of now, there are no paid staff people and no one receives compensation for their work in T-GALA.

Active members present at the meeting elected
• continued on page 4



Nashville Worship Center pastor Joby Brady (right) confers with associate pastor Kent Christmas during Tuesday night's Metro Nashville Beer Board meeting. Brady, Christmas and company unsuccessfully protested the application of Jerry Peek, owner of Journey.— DARE STAFF PHOTO BY JIMMY CHILDERS

Journey gets beer permit Metro beer board awards license despite protests from Sunday School Board, church

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

By a 4-1 vote Tuesday night, members of the Metro Nashville Beer Board approved the application of Jerry Peek for a permit to sell beer at his new lesbian/gay restaurant and lounge, Journey, at 909 Church Street.

"There's still some justice in this world," Peek told reporters after the meeting which saw vocal opposition from a group hoping to prevent the bar from opening.

Peek will find out next Tuesday if his application for a permit to sell liquor is approved. If it is, he said Journey could conceivably open the next day, but that the nightclub will probably open on Friday, January 19.

Peek's efforts to open the 7,000-square foot facility in Nashville's downtown area have been stymied by a series of citations from the Metro Codes department, the apparent cancellation of a \$1 million insurance policy and the establishment of an inter-denominational church only two doors from Journey's location.

The board members' decision was made despite opposition to Peek's application from attorney Lewis Laska, whose office is at 901 Church Street; the Baptist Sunday School Board, whose parking lot is

some 20 feet from Journey's entrance; Joby Brady, pastor of the Nashville Worship Center; and Mel Perry, pastor of the Grace Bible Presbyterian Church in Madison.

Laska, as the primary spokesperson for the opposition group, presented the board with "four issues I'd like to make in regard to this application." He said Peek's application was "fraudulent and misleading," claiming irregularities in the document which he said indicated Peek didn't know his zip code and which failed to include the names of all partners in the business.

Laska maintained that Joe Heatherly, Peek's "longtime friend and housemate," holds a financial interest in the business, a charge refuted by Peek.

Heatherly cannot be a partner in, nor an employee of, any business which holds a beer or liquor permit because, according to testimony entered at the hearing, a beer permit he held for another business was revoked in 1983 when it was determined he was selling liquor without a license. He cannot be granted a beer permit for a period of 10 years after the revocation.

Peek said that Heatherly had no financial interest in Journey and would not be working in the business.

• continued on page 4

Returning legislators greeted by activists

Some 500 pro-choice advocates stage rally at Legislative Plaza

from STAFF REPORTS

Some 500 pro-choice supporters gathered in Nashville Tuesday to greet returning Tennessee state legislators at a noontime rally on Legislative Plaza in an effort to let lawmakers know their concerns and desires for continued "safe and legal" abortions.

Lawmakers were returning to the state capitol for the beginning of the 1990 session of the Tennessee General Assembly.

Sponsored by a coalition of pro-choice groups throughout the state, the rally featured a variety of speakers including Sen. Steve Cohen (D-Memphis), Maureen McNulty of the Pro-Choice Coalition of East Tennessee and former Metro Nashville council member Betty Nixon.

"The Reagan-Bush-Webster decision has activated the majority of people in the United States and made you a presence," Cohen told the 500 pro-choice activists gathered on the sunny plaza. "There will be abortion in this nation regardless of what Tennessee lawmakers do. The issue is whether it will be legal and safe or illegal and unsafe."

"It's time they [lawmakers] understand what we stand for and what we won't stand for," McNulty said, calling upon the audience to contact their legislators during this election year.

Nixon told the activists to "speak with a calm voice" in letting their concerns be heard by state lawmakers. "What we're saying is a woman's decision on what to do

when faced with an unwanted pregnancy is not the government's business," Nixon said.

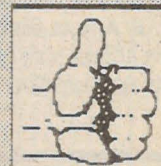
About 20 anti-abortion protestors, carrying signs reading "The voice of choice is a yell from hell" and "Abortions are murder" were seen along the plaza's perimeter.

The rally was co-sponsored by the Tennessee Alliance for Choice and more than a dozen of its member groups including Tennesseans Keeping Abortions Legal and Safe (T-KALS), MTSU Students for Choice, American Civil Liberties Union/Tennessee, League of Women Voters, Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA), Planned Parenthood of Nashville and the National Council of Jewish Women/Tennessee Sector. •

I N S I D E

Dare this week

One in Teen:
Support and solutions.
Centerpiece, page 6.



**Everything you've always
wanted to know about classifieds.**
Market, page 9.



Selling the Hudson:
The scoop on ABC's Rockumentary.
Loose Lips, page 12.



D A T E S

Big events



"I have a dream..."

— Martin Luther King

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.

Monday, January 15

MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

Thursday, January 18

Planning meeting PRIDE '90. Nashville. 7pm. Info (615) 254-2272.

Friday, January 19

Coffeehouse 3RD FRIDAY. Produced by Feminist Productions. At Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison, Memphis. Nonalcoholic. Smoking section. Doors open at 8pm, music begins at 8:30pm. \$2 donation goes to MGLCC. Info (901) 276-0844.

Saturday, January 20

Workshop WHAT CAN YOU DO TO KEEP ABORTION LEGAL AND SAFE? Political skills workshop. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. 9am - noon. Info (615) 320-7142 or 327-0821.

Sunday, January 21

Organizational Meeting Meet to form lesbian/gay outdoor/sporting group. At Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison, Memphis. 2:30pm. Info (901) 274-1847 or (901) 276-0275.

Outing GO JAMAICAN. Black and White Men Together / Memphis. At Spice of the Islands, 775 South Highland, Memphis. 6pm. Info (901) 726-1461.

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.
- **Coffeehouse** 3RD FRIDAY. Produced by Feminist Productions. Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison, Memphis. 8pm. \$2 donation. Info (901) 276-0844.

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.
- **GCN** Viacom cable channel 35. 9pm.

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.
- **One in Ten** Support group for lesbian and gay teens. 6:30pm. Info (615) 834-9186 or GALLIP Hotline (615) 297-0008.
- **Incest Survivors Anonymous** Closed women's meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd. 6:30pm.
- **Nashville CARES** Visualization Group. 7:15pm. Info (615) 385-1510.
- **Alternatives** (Alcoholics Anonymous) Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men. MCC. 8pm.
- **Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics** (ACOA) Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

Fridays

- **Sexaholics Anonymous** Closed meeting. MCC. 5pm.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group** Meeting, Belmont United Methodist. 7:30 pm.

Saturdays

- **Incest Survivors Anonymous** Open meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd. 5:30pm.
- **Community Dinner** Metropolitan Community Church, all you can eat. 7:30pm. \$5. Info (615) 320-0288.
- **GCN** Viacom cable channel 35. 8pm.

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

- Last week's Big Events (Volume 3, Number 1, page 2) incorrectly listed the date for the celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday. The correct date, as noted in this week's Big Events, is Monday, January 15. We apologize for the error and are glad to correct the record.

CROSS COUNTRY

compiled by **MARK LAWRENCE**

Staff Writer

P-FLAG supports hate crimes legislation

WASHINGTON — A campaign by the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) in support of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act has encouraged parents of lesbians and gays across the nation to send more than 1,500 post cards to Capitol Hill in support of the bill.

The legislation is waiting approval from the Senate, where Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) has threatened to attach anti-gay amendments to the bill. The House of Representatives approved the bill in June. The act would require tracking of crimes against specified groups, including lesbians and gay men.

"As parents of persons who are the targets of these vicious crimes, we find it incomprehensible that some senators are slow to act against anti-gay violence," said Paulette Goodman, president of P-FLAG.

"As a parent, I find it incomprehensible that anyone would attempt to lessen the significance of violence against a gay or lesbian." •

Lesbian/Gay politicians organize in California

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — Twelve California lesbian or gay male elected officials formed the California Association of Lesbian and Gay Elected Government Officials (CAL/G EGO).

CAL/G EGO is an offshoot of the National Organization of Elected and Appointed Officials. The group has already worked to support the election of Lucy Killea to the state assembly. A statewide conference is planned for later this year.

The group is co-chaired by Laguna Beach Mayor Robert Gentry and San Mateo County Supervisor Tom Nolan, and includes members from throughout the state. •

Former employee files \$15 million suit

BROWARD COUNTY, Fla. — A former employee has filed a \$15 million lawsuit against Glenbeigh, Inc., which operates addictions hospitals throughout the state.

The plaintiff, known only as John Doe, claims that he was fired after his employers learned he had AIDS, in spite of a recent positive job evaluation, according to a 1988 Florida law employers cannot fire an employee for having AIDS. •

Medical/legal issues of AIDS topic of conference

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The Fight for Life Committee is sponsoring a conference on medical and legal issues related to AIDS on Feb. 2 and 3. The conference, called "To Be Informed," is intended for medical and legal professionals, people with AIDS, and others throughout the Southeast.

Martin Delaney from Project Inform will give the keynote address.

Other speakers include Dale Lawrence from the Department of Health and Human Services and representatives of drug compa-

nies from around the U.S. and Canada.

The conference is cosponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Pride Committee, the Metropolitan Community Church, the Dolphin Democratic Club, Citizens for Human Rights, and the North Broward Hospital District. For more information, contact the Fight for Life Committee at (305) 566-6753. •

Fair housing approved in Palm Beach county

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — The Palm Beach County Commission has unanimously approved a new fair housing law that would prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

To take effect, it must be approved again after a public hearing on Jan. 16.

The law would forbid discrimination in housing and access to public facilities, including motels, hotels, restaurants and theaters.

"This sends a good strong message that Palm Beach County is against discrimination," said County Commissioner Carol Roberts.

The proposal calls for fines of up to \$50,000 for violations and eliminates current restrictions of punitive damages. •

Convicted killer gets 35-year sentence

HARTFORD, Conn. — Marcos Perez, a 17-year-old defendant in the beating death of a gay man last year, was sentenced to the maximum sentence of 35 years in prison after pleading guilty to the killing.

Another defendant, 19-year-old Sean G. Burke was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

In a signed statement to police, Perez said he "hated fags" and confessed to killing Richard Reihl after meeting him near a gay bar and going home with him.

The prosecution claimed Burke had joked about being the leader of "the Reformers," an informal group that tried to rob and humiliate gay men. •

Mass. gay rights law won't face referendum

BOSTON — State Attorney General James M. Shannon has ruled that opponents of the state's recently passed gay rights law cannot force a referendum to repeal the measure because some of its provisions deal with religion.

According to the state constitution, a law cannot be repealed by referendum if any of its provisions deal with religion. Ironically, the sections dealing with religion are those which exempt religious institutions from the law's non-discrimination requirements.

"It appears the opponents of gay rights have shot themselves in the foot," said Michael Barrett, chief sponsor of the bill in the state senate.

"The exemption for churches they won in the Senate is real, but the price of victory is that they are barred from the referendum process."

Opponents of the law say they plan to appeal the ruling. •

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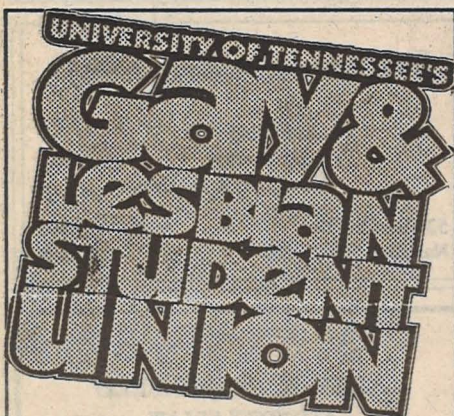
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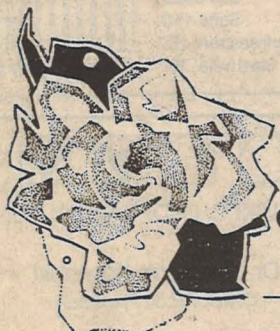
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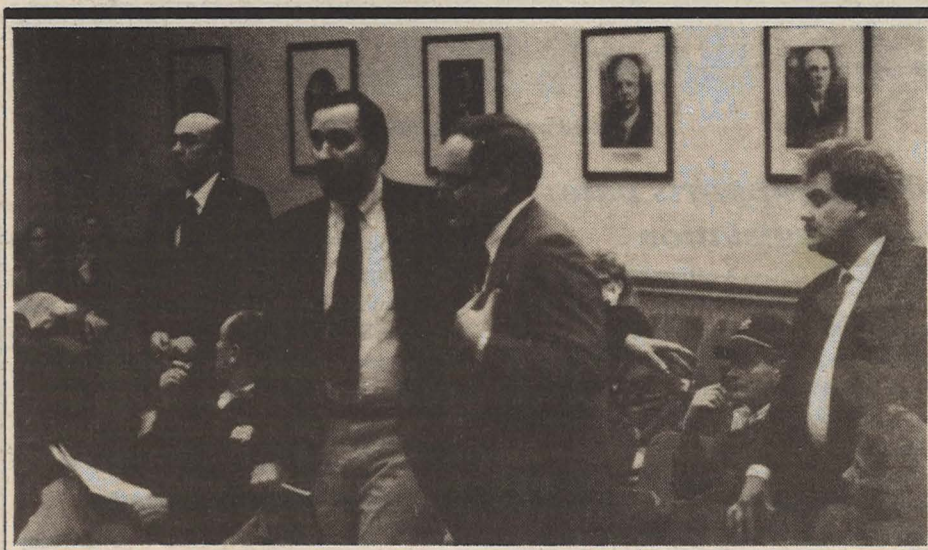


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Mel Perry, (from left) pastor of Grace Bible Presbyterian Church, attorney Lewis Laska, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board attorney Robert P. Thomas [of the law firm Boulton, Cummings, Connors and Berry] and Joby Brady, pastor of Nashville Worship Center, prepare to oppose Jerry Peek's beer sales application for his lesbian/gay bar and restaurant Journey. — DARE STAFF PHOTO BY JIMMY CHILDERS

...Journey wins round

• continued from page 1

Laska also attempted to link Peek to a series of fires that occurred at various times during the past 20 years, including a fire at the Watch Your Hat and Coat Saloon (of which Peek was co-owner). He referred to a 1974 story in the NASHVILLE BANNER that linked Peek to fires at three other locations.

"I became concerned when I received information that there is a disproportionate number of fires in businesses such as these he has operated," Laska said.

Peek refuted those charges, pointing out that fires at three of the establishments occurred a year or more after he was connected with the businesses operating there.

Laska urged the board to conduct a more thorough investigation of Peek's application "because these particular establishments present a better than average chance of fire."

Laska also questioned Peek's residence — listed on the application as a house on Delmas Avenue — charging that Peek actually makes his home in Robertson County. Peek countered by saying that his Robertson County home is on the market for sale and that he has made his home at the Delmas Avenue address for several months.

Beer board members seemed most concerned with the establishment of the Nashville Worship Center at 901-A Church Street. Brady contended the Church had signed its lease on the space prior to the filing of Peek's application.

However, testimony showed that services were not being held at the address until December 17, some two weeks after Peek filed his application.

"How long has this been a church?" board

member Louise Jetmore asked Brady.

"The lease shows we began on November 1. We've probably held 10 or more services since we've been there," Brady said.

At that point, board member Earl Shacklett Jr. asked Brady "Did you get on TV and say you started the church to prevent Peek from getting this permit?"

Brady did not answer the question directly, to which Shacklett responded, "Did you make that statement? In essence, is that what you did?"

Brady answered, "Yes."

Asking the board to investigate Peek and to deny the permit, Laska produced a Journey ad from *Dare* which read "Great things take time."

He told board members that Journey will have "rock and roll dancing, country dancing and female impersonators."

"This is going to be quite a place," Laska added.

Despite Laska's plea for a protracted investigation, Pat Craddock, director of the Beer Permits Office, said that Peek had already passed the routine investigation and had approvals from Metro Codes and the Fire Marshal's office.

"As far as this church being two doors down, I can't say there's a church there. The sign says 'Stand and Snack.' Looking in the window, all I saw were chairs lined up," Craddock said.

Metro ordinances prohibit the sale of beer within 250 feet of the entrance to a church. Journey's entrance was moved to the back of the building to be more than 300 feet from the church's entrance, but Brady said the church was moving its entrance to the back. •

...T-GALA changes

• continued from page 1

T-GALA's first board of directors — six men and six women. Previously T-GALA was run by a steering committee. New members of the board of directors are: Abby Rubinfeld, attorney and national board member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF); Debra Alberts, active in political and AIDS concerns; Penny Campbell, political activist and catalyst behind the recently-organized Gay and Lesbian Lives in Progress (GALLIP); Ann Taylor; Annette Franke; Robb McClus-

key; Greg Fisher, national board member of NGLTF; Mike Blevins; Steve Williams, chair of One in Teen, an organization for gay and lesbian teenagers; Phil Thomas, organizer of People of All Colors Together (PACT); and Tony DuBose.

Membership in T-GALA is \$12 annually for individuals, \$30 for a non-profit business and \$60 for a for-profit business.

Membership includes voting privileges at all general membership meetings and a subscription to the T-GALA newsletter. •

LOCAL COLOR

compiled from STAFF REPORTS

Chattanooga

Theatre sets 'Cyrano' auditions

Auditions for the French classic, CYRANO DE BERGERAC will be held at the Little Theatre of Chattanooga, 400 River Street, January 14-15 at 7:30 p.m.

Roles are available for 20 men and six women, including six male principals and two female principals. All others will be cast in multiple roles.

Perusal scripts are available for 24 hours with a \$5 deposit. For more information, call (615) 267-8534. •

Adult acting classes offered

The Little Theatre of Chattanooga will offer adult acting classes February 4-25, taught by guest instructor Debbie Kinghorn.

Kinghorn is a member of the Actor's Equity Association and received her master of fine arts degree from Trinity University. She has experience in teaching acting to people of all ages, from kindergarten children to college students, and has recently begun teaching classes for student in the CLT Youth Program.

Kinghorn will begin a session on February 4. The classes meet every Sunday for four weeks from 7:30-9 p.m.

Tuition is \$30 for the session. For details, call (615) 267-8534. •

Memphis

Sporting group plans meeting

Lesbians and gay men who share an enjoyment of being outdoors are invited to an organizational meeting Sunday, January 21, at 2:30 p.m. at the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison Avenue.

Hiking, skiing, walking, swimming, week-end trips, as well as social events are seen as potential activities for the group. Similar groups throughout the country have been established during the past decade and have provided hundreds of lesbians and gay men the opportunity to share their interest and love for the outdoors in a friendly and supportive environment, organizers say.

For more information, call (901) 274-1847 or (901) 276-0275. •

Nashville

Crafts exhibit opens at JCC

Nashville's Jewish Community Center, 801 Percy Warner Boulevard, will be the site for a special exhibit by 15 Tennessee craftspeople.

The show is being coordinated by Mary Morrison and David Wright. This exhibit of crafts will feature works ranging from the very traditional to contemporary styles. All items will be available for sale.

The exhibit opens January 21, 1990, with an opening reception from 2-4 p.m. and continues through February 10, during normal JCC hours.

Artists represented in the exhibit include: Russ Jacobson (wooden riding horses); Sara Hurst (hand-painted clothing); Alvin and Trevele Wood (white oak basketry); Al Blumberg (salt-glazed pottery); Norris Hall (hand-painted jewelry); David Wright (porcelain tiles and sinks); Kay Low-Smith (handwoven

tablecloths); Teresa Hays (marbled silk and paper); Nancy Schwartz (raku pottery); Danielle McDaniel (clay sculpture); John Coburn (clay); Mary Morrison (grapevine and paper basketry); Margurita Port (stained glass); Charles Avis (turned wood); and Roy Pace (carved wood).

The show is free and open to the public. •

Murphy elected Nashville CARES board president

Rick Murphy was named president of the board of Nashville CARES at the AIDS service agency's November board meeting.

Murphy succeeds A. Gene Copello, who served as president for three years.

Murphy has been actively involved in the work of Nashville CARES for most of the agency's existence and a member of the board since 1986. He has served as board secretary for two years and as a member of the board's executive committee.

Murphy believes the board's greatest challenge during the 1990s will be to develop fundraising efforts so that Nashville CARES can continue to keep pace with the demand for client services. He hopes to expand the board so that people from throughout the community will have the opportunity to be more involved in the fight against AIDS.

Murphy is a consultant with the technical and research services department of Bryan, Pendleton, Swats and McAllister, a regional employee benefits consulting firm. He is a graduate of Vanderbilt University Law School and a member of the American Bar Association and the Georgia Bar Association. •

ACLU plans skills workshop

"What can you do to keep abortion legal and safe?" will be the topic for the latest in a series of political skills workshops offered statewide by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Tennessee and Tennesseans Keeping Abortion Legal and Safe (TKALS).

The workshop will be held Saturday, January 20, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Boulevard, Nashville, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

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



Brian Russell stars as Groucho Marx as Chaffin's Barn presents GROUCHO: A LIFE IN REVUE Jan. 16-Feb. 3. Martha Gabel co-stars as Margaret Dumont. — DARE FILE PHOTO

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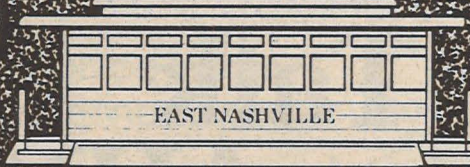
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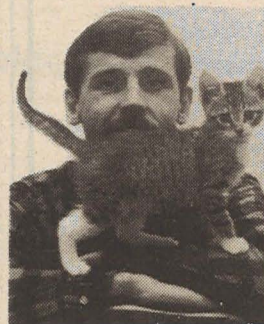
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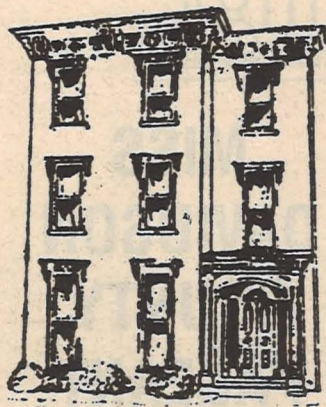
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a public service message from Dare and Tennessee Responds to AIDS

CENTER One in Teen: support

by
LAURA TEK
Staff Writer

In the past several months, the need for a support group for gay and lesbian teenagers in the middle Tennessee area has become apparent — partly through *Dare's* "One in Teen" series about the problems faced by gay and lesbian youth — and has resulted in the formation of One in Teen, just such an organization for young gay and lesbian people.

Activist Penny Campbell has taken an interest in the problems of gay and lesbian teenagers and through Gay and Lesbian Lives in Progress (GALLIP), has decided to play a supporting role in the formation of One in Teen.

"Gay and lesbian teens face unique problems that straight teens don't — higher suicide rates, higher drug and alcohol addiction rates. They don't have a healthy gathering spot, a place where they can go, be themselves, feel comfortable and accepted, and meet others like themselves. One in Teen wants to provide that," Campbell says.

So where do gay and lesbian teenagers go? Some hang out at area shopping malls. But gay and lesbian teens may also be found at certain local parks or "adult" bookstores. Or they may be found outside local bars.

"Some of these places may be a little raunchy but the kids who hang out at these places are generally very nice kids. They are no different than any other group of teenagers, except for the fact they're gay," says Steve Williams, 19, a graduate of Nashville's McGavock High School, and one of the organizers of One in Teen.

Scott, 18, a private school student, says attitudes toward homosexuality are possibly worse in private schools than in public schools.

"My school is a Church of Christ school which condemns homosexuality. I have a Bible class every day and when the subject comes up my teacher says that we're all morally wrong and that we're all going to hell. I have heard this all my life," Scott says.

Seventeen-year-old Jean, a student at Glenduff High School, thinks One in Teen can help improve

members' feelings of self-esteem: "The group helps us to meet others like ourselves. It keeps us off the streets and helps us handle problems. I joined the group because I've experienced much homophobia in school."

"It's a sad fact today that being a gay teenager can get you killed. I have been trying to get a lesbian and gay teen support group started for about a year now," Williams explains.

"Towns like Atlanta already have a lesbian and gay teen support group. It was through

GALLIP [and its hotline] that I found a way I finally could. The group will give kids a place to go, where they can talk freely about their problems."

In only four short weeks the meetings have grown from only three members and two adult sponsors to 12 members and three adult sponsors, who will undertake certain responsibilities with the group in the capacity of advisers.

"The adult sponsors will provide the teens with direction needed in order to help them attain their goals and decisions. One in Teen is not a therapy group and the adult sponsors are not counselors. We will not tell them what to do and will be very careful not to do anything that would be in any way interpreted as contributing to the delinquency of a minor," Campbell says. "The issue is one of adults associating with minors, not sexual orientation. We have the right to assemble and we intend on following the same guidelines as a youth group leader in a church group would follow."

One in Teen follows strict guidelines that all members must follow in order to ensure confidentiality and the success of the group:

- The age range will be from 14 to 22.

- All individuals must come to the meetings alcohol- and drug-free. There will also be no alcohol or drug use prior to or subsequent to the meetings.

- Permission must be given by the group before any visitors are allowed to attend any meetings. The



One in Teen's Penny Campbell and
STAFF PHOTO BY LAURA TEK

P I E C E

ort and solutions

group defines visitors as anyone who is not gay, lesbian, bisexual or an adult sponsor.

- The names of all members and all that is seen or heard during meetings must remain confidential.

In its first four weeks, One in Teen has developed a busy agenda for the coming year.

The group's primary concern is simply getting the word out about the group. Besides the usual flyers and advertisements in local publications, the biggest effort will be an attempt by the group's spon-

sors to approach high school principals and guidance counselors and talking to them about the plight of gay/lesbian teens.

All of the teenagers in the group say that the subject of homosexuality in schools is always addressed in a negative way, never in a positive light, and is something that needs to be changed.

Another topic under scrutiny is the creation of programs to educate gay and lesbian teenagers on how to protect themselves against the rising tide of gay-bashing perpetrated by other teens.

"I was approached by a guy once in the mall who asked me in a threatening way if I was a queer. I stood my ground. That made him leave me alone," Williams says.

Jerry, 17, is a student at White House High School in neighboring Robertson County who remembers a time when a gang of high school toughs came after him with a baseball bat at a McDonald's drive-through window.

All members of One in Teen say that such harassment, especially by some of their own classmates, is not uncommon.

"I think this group will give a lot of gay teens the boost they need to feel like they are a real person. Before I found other gay teenagers I felt as if I was the only one in the world. I had no one to compare myself to. I felt all alone. Now I know we are everywhere," Jerry says.

The biggest issue the group hopes to address is AIDS education. Recent statistics indicate that the

largest age group becoming afflicted with AIDS are those 14 to 22.

"Sex is a very big issue with teenagers. It's absolutely frightening how much these kids either don't know about safe sex or know about it and won't practice it. I think it's because teenagers feel that they're indestructible, that getting sick and dying is something that can't happen to them," Campbell said.

Kyle Newsom, 18 and the subject of a *Dare* profile last fall, agrees.

"Teens are very curious about sex and as a result many suffer from 'flaming hormones.' Every week I see somebody with somebody different. To teens, sex is prestige. They get easily caught up in the moment and don't stop to think that what they're doing could kill them. Most teens are not educated about AIDS. These issues must be addressed," Newsom contends.

"Gay teens face so much trouble in today's world. I've known since the fifth grade that I was gay. We need a support group. Here we can find friends, support, help, anything we need to survive," said Sean, 17 and a senior at Overton High School.

Kaye Armstrong, a 20-year-old lesbian, feels that being active in the gay and lesbian community is an important part of the whole process.

"To be gay is to be proud of what we are," she says. "This is a hard thing for a lot of teenagers and adults to openly do, but with groups like this we have a chance to be with others who express the same feelings that we have."

Education, in general, is the primary goal of One in Teen. Its plans include sponsoring seminars on gay history and safe sex. The group also plans to hold social gatherings and hopes to participate in Gay/Lesbian Pride Week celebrations.

"The kids in One in Teen are very talented, creative, enthusiastic, committed and very brave. They've come out to their parents, in spite of their parents' confusion and dismay, and have maintained their dignity and identity. They're gay and they're proud," Campbell says. "One in Teen will provide a creative and constructive way to channel their youthful energy." •

nd Steve Williams — DARE



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Editor's note:
For additional information about One in Teen, its meetings and programs, call the GALLIP switchboard at (615) 297-0008 or Steve Williams at (615) 834-9186.

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ONSTAGE

B-movie madness

THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940. By John Bishop. Directed by Melissa Bedinger. Circle Players. TPAC's Johnson Theatre. Through January 28.

reviewed by **JEFF ELLIS**
Editor

DIRECTOR MELISSA BEDINGER, combining a dizzy script with an even ditzier cast, has succeeded in fashioning a fun evening of theatre with *THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940*.

And in doing so, Bedinger and Circle Players present a laugh-filled respite from January's chill winds, two and a half hours of *double entendre* and a general wackiness that's sure to please even the most curmudgeonly among us.

But it is that two-plus hours of running time that needs some work. Despite the talented cast and daffy script — there's more rhubarb than ribald at work in John Bishop's play — the show seems to drag in unexpected spots. The audience squirms in its collective seat, not because of the laughs but because of the fatigue.

Still, that doesn't take away from the show's overall feel: a slightly seedy, altogether unbelievable B-movie take-off. But it succeeds because the play makes no pretense of being anything more than what it is — escapist fluff that leaves you longing for Bulldog Drummond or Nick and Nora Charles (with Abbott and Costello replacing William Powell and Myrna Loy).

Heading Bedinger's cast is Margaret Houston Miller as the lady of the manor, Elsa Von Grossenknueten, who has gathered a cast of wacko characters to uncover the "Stage Door Slasher," the fiend who murdered two (or was

it three?) showgirls during the failed run of a show by Roger Hopewell and Bernice Roth (Tim Holder and Janet Coscarelli).

Miller, Holder and Coscarelli are hilarious! Miller's character may be a lesbian (she does, after all, kiss her maid good morning) and Holder's character is definitely fey (that's what they used to say in the movies when they

meant someone was gay). They're both deliciously campy and wicked.

But it's Coscarelli who wins the most laughs with her broadly drawn, though richly textured, performance.

Nanette Hart, in the dual (or is it triple? — this is a mystery, remember, so it keeps you guessing) role of Helsa and Dieter Wenzel, tears up the stage with her per-

formance, delivering her lines with a think Bavarian accent that endlessly amusing.

Others in the supporting cast include Frank Preston (as director Ken de la Maize), Art Elrod (weakly cast as a comic); Diane Bearden (as producer Marjorie Beaverstock); Scott Willis (as Irish tenor Patrick O'Reilly); Glenn Pafford (as detective Michael Kelly); and Lisa Truley (charming as chorine Nikki Crandall).

Bedinger's B-movie treatment is made more effective (and the audience love it) by the use of titles projected on the set. Overall, *THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940* is a pleasant evening of theatre, a sure-fire way of combatting the January doldrums. •



Theatres opening new shows

AUDIENCES IN middle Tennessee will be treated to a variety of new theatre offerings in the coming weeks.

- Actor's Playhouse of Nashville last night premiered Harold Pinter's *OLD TIMES*. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. For reservations, call (615) 327-0049.

- Wendy Wasserstein's comedy, *ISN'T IT ROMANTIC?* opens Saturday at the Shalom Theatre at 8 p.m. at Nashville's Jewish Community Center, 801 Percy Warner Boulevard. It runs through Sunday, January 21. Directed by Jeff Corvin, the cast features Jill Bates, Paul Felton, Ruth Klar and Lorie Hollabaugh. For information, call the JCC at (615) 356-7170.

- Chaffin's Barn presents *GROUCHO: A LIFE IN REVUE*, January 16-February 3. The story of Groucho Marx and his brothers, the comedy is written by Arthur Marx and Robert Fisher. Featured in director Sheila Bailey's cast are Brian Russell, Brian Hull, Sean McGinty and First Night award winner Martha Gabel. For reservations, call (615) 636-9977.

- *TENTERHOOKS* premieres Thursday, January 18, as the inaugural production of the New Play Theatre at the Cohn Adult Learning Center, 48th and Park Avenue in Nashville. Written by Matthew Gould, a professor at Vanderbilt University, the cast features Dennis Moser, John Brown, Nancy Clymer-Brown, Lillian Redding, Linda Leaver and Karen Mundy, under the direction of Paul Moss. For reservations, call (615) 383-4696. It runs through February 9.

- Eugene Ionesco's *THE BALD SOPRANO* will be Actor's Playhouse's late-night show. With a 10:30 p.m. curtain on Friday and Saturday nights, the show opens January 19. For reservations, call (615) 327-0049.

- Gay Cable Network/Nashville presents Rebecca Ransom's *TEXAS TWO-STEPPING WITH THE GIRLS*, featuring the Atlanta cast, for a one-night performance at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Boulevard, Nashville, on Saturday, January 27. For information, call GCN at (615) 254-8250. •

M A R K E T

Announcements

• Harvey's Cleaning Service. Dependable, affordable. Get a clean start for the '90s. Call (615) 228-3060. Nashville.

• Gay Pentecostal group forming. For info write to Dare DRAWER 43.

• Help! Let me breathe again. I'm allergic to my beautiful, orange, long-hair, male, 6-month-old cat. He's very sweet and lovable. Please give him a home. Call Laura at (615) 831-2941 and leave message. Nashville.

• Nashville CARES is seeking a full-time AIDS Educator. Person selected for position needs strong background and education, good writing and speaking skills, and the ability to communicate with a variety of groups. Phone Peggy at Nashville CARES (615) 385-1510 for complete job description. Send résumé and salary requirements to Sandee Potter, Nashville CARES, Box 25107, Nashville, TN 37202. EOE.

• **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!

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• Penny had a birthday, Penny had a birthday.

• GWFF, 42, attractive, wants to meet GWFF, '30s-'40s lifemate. (615) 895-6468 after 3pm. Murfreesboro.

• There was nothing good about being stuck in an elevator, no matter what anyone said. She thought about here mother, and what she would have done in this situation.

• GWM, 53, BI/Hz, 5'10". Professional. Enjoys antiques, movies, cozy fires, theatre, walks, cooking for one who enjoys same. Dare DRAWER 42.

• To W. and C.B.: Happy anniversary, GIRLS. Here's to another year of bliss.

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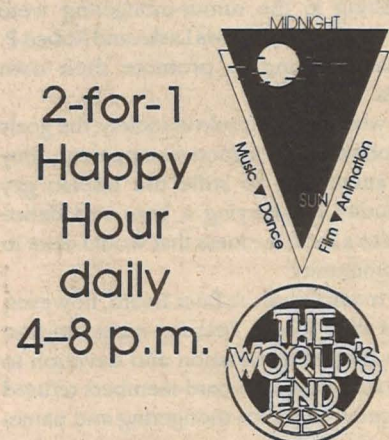
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VIEWS

**Beer board's decision
is a victory for us all**

TUESDAY NIGHT'S decision by the Metro Nashville Beer Board to award a beer sales permit to Jerry Peek is a definite step toward a progressive future.

Since Peek first began working on a new lesbian and gay nightclub called Journey in September, he has faced several setbacks. Conflicting reports from inspectors from the Metro Codes department, threats of cars being towed from an attorney for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, missed appointments and broken promises have all combined to make the past few months troublesome for Peek.

Perhaps most disconcerting is the rampant homophobia that has been apparent throughout the proceedings. Although some opponents espoused a concern for the safety of the bar's patrons, the true homophobic colors of those opposed became evident at Tuesday night's hearing.

The ubiquitous Mel Perry, whose presence at every major Nashville lesbian/gay event — holding signs bearing vitriolic homophobic and AIDSphobic messages crudely scrawled on yellowing poster board — has come to be expected, was joined in his hate-filled rhetoric with the somewhat comic posturings of Joby Brady and Kent Christmas of the Nashville Worship Center, the inter-denominational church which opened just down the street from the bar in an effort to trap Peek with the archaic Metro statutes that prohibit beer sales within 250 feet of a church.

Assisting in the rumor-mongering were Nashville attorneys Lewis Laska and Robert P. Thomas, seeking to promote their own agenda.

But whatever their role in society, the goals were obvious, their motives apparent: they were attempting to stifle the lesbian/gay community by denying a beer and dance permit to a local business that would cater to that community.

The members of the Beer Board, however, proved their mettle Tuesday night. Impressive in their determination and devotion to their stated mission, board members refused to succumb to rumor-mongering and name-calling.

Instead, they chose "to bite the bullet," as one member said, and to do the right thing by approving Peek's application.

OWNERS AND OPERATORS of other lesbian/gay-oriented businesses were keeping a vigilant eye on the events. After all, if Journey's opponents had been successful, it seems obvious they would not have been content to rest on their "laurels." We think they would have focused their attentions on other businesses in the community.

Certainly, awarding one beer sales permit will not change the world. It won't even change Nashville. And a few years from now, Tuesday night's actions will be forgotten.

But it remains, nonetheless, a victory — not just for Jerry Peek, but for the entire lesbian and gay community. After all, if they could have railroaded him out of business for being gay, who thinks they would have stopped there?

We certainly don't. •

Dare

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

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

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

SCREENS

Reinterpreting Lillian Hellman

THESE THREE. Directed by William Wyler. Screenplay by Lillian Hellman based upon her stage play, THE CHILDREN'S HOUR. Starring Merle Oberon, Miriam Hopkins and Joel McCrea. Produced by Samuel Goldwyn. 1934.

reviewed by F. LYNNE BACHLEDA

Staff Writer

"THE FIRST CHILDREN'S HOUR WAS NOT THE CHILDREN'S HOUR. We took the basic idea of the school and took the lesbianism out. It wasn't allowed. And it made a very nice little picture called THESE THREE with Merle Oberon and Miriam Hopkins and Joel McCrea."

Lillian Hellman spoke matter-of-factly about her own film adaptation of the stage play that opened on Broadway in 1934 and made her rich and famous at the age of 27. It's not surprising that she was willing to change the title.

If you rent the 1934 version of THESE THREE looking for the merest trace of a homosexual theme, you'll look in vain. Hellman said, "This is really not a play about lesbianism, but about a lie. The bigger the lie the better, as always."

The lie is told by a malicious brat, a student in a boarding school run by Karen Wright (Oberon) and Martha Dobie (Hopkins). The original lie for the stage is an implication of a lesbian relationship between the two women. The first film version of the lie is an accusation that Martha is having an affair with Karen's fiance, Dr. Joseph Cardin (McCrea).

Hellman based her story on an Edinburgh scandal of 1890, when a child said that the two headmistresses at her school had "an inordinate affection" for each other. They spent the rest of their lives suing to restore their reputations. In the end they had nothing left.

Director William Wyler (THE LITTLE FOXES, JEZEBEL, THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES) had a wonderful cast for THESE THREE, but the vicious malevolence multiplied by a child's persona as played by Bonita Granville tops the performances. She bullies the very best out of Hellman's insightful screenplay with a "dug-in" demeanor that would frighten anyone of any age.

Indeed, in the end, her grandmother's lifelong punishment is to continue to relate to the monster. Look for the "Wicked Witch of the North," Margaret Hamilton, in a cameo role.

THESE THREE is beautiful to see. It ought to be. The cinematography is by Hollywood great Gregg Toland who collaborated with Wyler several times (LITTLE FOXES, WUTHERING

HEIGHTS, THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES). The film has the best look of black and white: rich contrast, deep focus, and a clarity that works in perfect counterpoint to the muddled human state of affairs. Toland is most famous, however, for his ground-breaking contributions to CITIZEN KANE. Cameras mysteriously moving through windows in the rain are but one of several shared visual similarities.

The film was remade by Wyler in 1961 starring Shirley MacLaine, Audrey Hepburn and James Garner. Apparently it can only be chanced upon in late night TV-land. Despite its contemporary stellar cast, it is considered to be not as successful as the first film version.

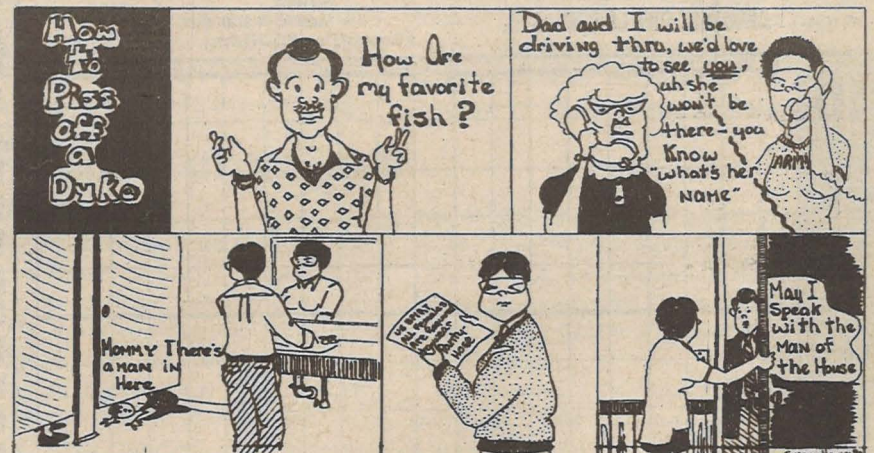
MacLaine has said, "Lillian had written a slow examination of one woman's personal growth in the area of falling in love with another woman. But Willie Wyler didn't want that, and that's why the story didn't work on film."

IN THIS VERSION, as in the stage play, MacLaine's character hangs herself simply because she comes to realize that she has lesbian feelings for her friend. A change in the Motion Picture Association of America rating code allowed distribution: "In keeping with the culture, the mores and the values of our time, homosexuality and other sexual aberrations [sic] may now be treated with care, discretion and restraint."

I think as a teenager when I started looking in vain for myself in the essential mirror of culture I read the play because I heard that it had to do with lesbianism. I remember at the hanging scene I went numb. It was like THE WELL OF LONELINESS. I found the theme, but I lost any sense of hope that these characters or my own tender life might turn out all right.

THESE THREE isn't like that. It's a tough story, but in the end there is happiness, not hanging. But then, it's heterosexual, isn't it? •

Editor's note: Lillian Hellman's THE CHILDREN'S HOUR will be presented by Lakewood Theatre, 2211 Hadley Avenue in Lakewood, for a three weekend run beginning Friday, January 26. For reservations, call (615) 847-0934.



— DARE CARTOON BY LESLIE GUERIN-HAINES

PAGES

Charming and provocative

CHANGING THE PAST, by Thomas Berger. Boston: Little, Brown. 1989. 285 pages, \$18.95.

reviewed by **JOE MAROHL**

Staff Writer

THOMAS BERGER is America's great comic writer of the last three decades. His Reinhart series (CRAZY IN BERLIN, 1958; REINHART IN LOVE, 1962; VITAL PARTS, 1970; and REINHART'S WOMEN, 1981) is widely regarded as the keystone of his career, but his individual novels (in my opinion, his greater achievements) deserve no less praise.

Having a comic style that is phlegmatic and intellectual (by which I don't want to imply "pretentious") has probably kept Berger from receiving much mainstream acclaim. I imagine it is possible for some people not to see the comedy in his ironical stories. After all, some of his best stuff plays off American paranoia and sociophobia, and, like Dostoevski, not generally regarded as a funny man, his vision of the human condition is initially gloomy, though hopeful in the end.

He writes like Sinclair Lewis (who's due for revival) and, to judge from his appearance in the flyleaf photograph, looks like a cartoon character by Charles Addams.

Berger's new novel, CHANGING THE PAST, is Leibnizian fantasy whose spirit is not very distant from IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, only a little seedier. Instead of getting a glimpse of what the world would have been without him, the

main character Walter Hunsicker is given the ability to change his past life as he likes.

He can't touch the future, however, and he has to take whatever consequences come of his new past decisions. But he can construct a new identity simply by wanting it. What is more, he can always return to the status quo if he so chooses.

Initially, Hunsicker is an unlikely choice for this experiment, conducted mysteriously in a cluttered "pawn shop." He is that rare breed, a contented man. Although he holds a lackluster job with a publisher, he adores his plump wife, who has discovered success of her own in real estate, and homosexual son, of whom he extraordinarily proud and respectful. His first brief dive into an alternative past (as a tycoon who is, as it happens, also a slumlord) is unpleasant enough to convince him that his life needs no revisions.

But when he discovers his beloved son has AIDS, he decides to venture back in time to remedy the sorrows of the present. Thus begins an exploration of three alternative lives, in which Hunsicker assumes new identities and a new name, Jack Kellogg. Kellogg's experiences as a stand-up comic, a novelist, and finally a radio personality/psychologist constitute distinct stories within the overall frame.

Despite what you might guess, the lesson learned by Hunsicker in all this is neither "There's no place like home" nor "The grass is

always greener," but rather everyone's life is unique and comparisons are pointless. Every person's life consists of triumph and anguish — and, furthermore, triumph and anguish may coincide.

In all cases, Hunsicker/Kellogg is dogged by a particular set of existential or karmic circumstances which repeat in a variety of forms and combinations. But the particular narratives of his five lives alter who he eventually becomes in each.

Kellogg the comedian is a heartless entertainer who tell racist, sexist, and homophobic jokes and abuses his friend (the farthest cry from Hunsicker); Kellogg the novelist becomes a passive observer of life without the courage to live it himself; and Kellogg the radio psychologist is able to take care of everyone's disaster but his own.

In the end, Hunsicker comes to question the wisdom of every possible course in his life. Motivated by the desire to save his son from a painful death, Hunsicker's quest for personal fulfillment and meaning comes, rather predictably, full circle.

CHANGING THE PAST is a charming and provocative novel. Had the main character been Elliot Hunsicker, the son dying of AIDS, and not Walter, would

the decision to remain with the original course have been even more poignant, I wonder. Would the decision have been the same? Berger, at least, seems not to doubt it. "Elliot always did the right thing. He would do so now. he would die as well as anyone could."

THE SAD, PASSIVE resignation to things as they are is not a very American stance and, given the circumstances here, seems almost despicable of the elder Hunsicker. But looking at the novel's ideas a little more particularly, you can't avoid detecting a remarkable insight to what the AIDS crisis is really about.

Of course, the fundamentalists interpret it as Divine Wrath, and nearly everyone these days seems ready to admit it's the result of a misspent life of one or another sort. No doubt part of the stress a person with AIDS experiences is the doubt that a different set of choices in the past would have led to a happier ending.

But unlike even some people active in AIDS research and AIDS politics, CHANGING THE PAST doesn't judge Elliot for the choices he's made in life — except to say he has done as well as any one of us might have done. "I have no regrets," another character says at one point. "I did what I should have done, am what I should have been."

In triumph, what words could be more presumptuous? But in anguish, what words could be more triumphant? •



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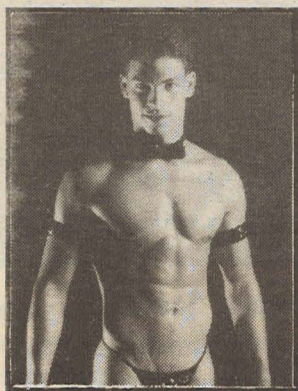
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All about Rock...

"Hmm...another letter from TV preacher Jim Bankroll in prison..."

"Dear Preacher, Prison is not a blessing. There is no shag carpet...and no gold toilet fixtures...Also, my cell-mate, Big Tyrone, keeps giving me gifts...and saying I'm his 'life-time partner!'"

— From *KUDZU*, the syndicated cartoon strip, drawn and written by Pulitzer Prize-winning Doug Marlette.

"I said no a few times, but they kept coming back. I'm glad they did. I said no because I didn't know how seriously they wanted to treat his homosexuality. I didn't want to do a travelogue of his life, nor did I want to do an exploitation story because it was too close to my own life."

"I didn't want it to be like the *LIBERACE* movies where they didn't adequately acknowledge his homosexuality. If you're going to do a Rock Hudson movie it didn't make sense to me not to go into all the corners."

"I was persuaded when ABC and the producers agreed it would be a serious study. I knew it was going to be done and felt as a gay man who had shared a lot of experiences that it should be done by someone who would understand what was going on."

— Screenwriter Dennis Turner, to Associated Press television writer Jerry Buck, about his involvement with the ABC TV movie about movie star hunk Rock Hudson, whose death in 1985 from AIDS, helped to focus public attention on the disease.

"Thomas Ian Griffith resides in the San Fernando Valley with his girlfriend, actress Mary Page Keller."

— From a press release about ABC's *ROCK HUDSON*. The press agent apparently wanted to be sure everyone knew Griffith, who played the title role, is heterosexual. Couldn't fool me, he's not pretty enough to be queer.

"I think people will be shocked and surprised by this movie. We've handled it matter-of-factly, without sensationalizing. But Rock lived a life of incredible promiscuity. He had one, two, sometimes three lovers a night. It's hard to keep the audience sympathetic. Mostly, we've just implied what was happening."

— Executive producer Frank Konigsberg to TV GUIDE writer Susan Littwin.

"When they asked me to do this part, I said, 'Why me? I played football.'"

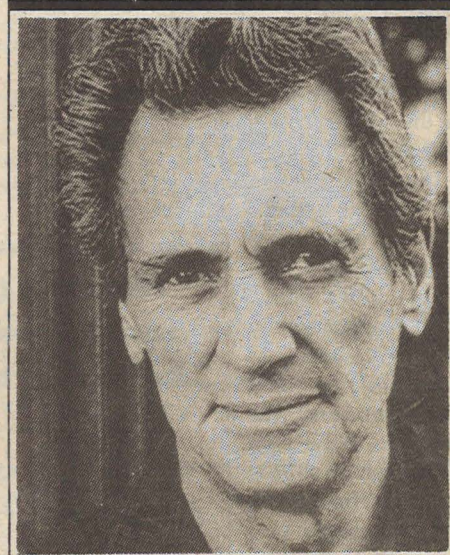
— Actor William R. Moses, erstwhile star of *FALCON CREST*, on being cast as Hudson's former lover Marc Christian.

"Maybe I grew up in a homophobic family. That's not to say that my family is evil, but they have preconceptions about what gay men are like, that they are very effeminate and affected."

— Moses, again, sounding very homophobic we think.

"As AIDS destroyed Hudson's life and looks, it pretty well takes over ABC's film, too. Once Hudson is diagnosed, in the last quarter of the movie, all other aspects of his life are overshadowed. Until then, some poignant points are made about glamorous icons fighting time — trying not to grow, or look, old. 'People used to scream over me,' Hudson recalls sadly, even before illness had aged him further."

— Critic Tom Shales of THE WASHINGTON POST.



Rock Hudson — DARE FILE PHOTO

"I've gotta call Scotty. He knows a groovy chick in San Francisco."

— Jeff (Paul Petersen) in an episode of THE DONNA REED SHOW. We, too, know some groovy chicks in San Francisco.

"My God! That boy has got to stop fooling with his face. What is he doing? Someone please tell me, what is he doing to his face?"

— Diva Diana (but we all know her as "Diane" thanks to Mary Wilson's *DREAMGIRL*) Ross, quoted by author J. Randy Taraborelli in his new book, *CALL HER MISS ROSS*.

"Regardless of the personal manipulators behind the actions against the Journey nightclub, the two aspects that need scrutinizing are Metro Codes Administration and the church."

"Codes officials need solidarity of purpose and interpretation. The church — as a conglomerate whole — needs to be questioned as to its philosophy of running someone out of town because of his beliefs."

"...With the civil rights accomplishments of the 1960s in mind, and the latest insights into evangelical misappropriations, it would seem time for the departments of the city and state and the churches of Tennessee to take a look at their own closets"

— Mitch McKay writing, in a letter to THE TENNESSEAN, about the travails of Jerry Peek's efforts to open a new bar in Nashville.