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Volume 3, Number 17

Tennessee's Gay & Lesbian Newsweekly

April 27, 1990

T-GALA gives support

Primary May 1

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

After analysis of a survey conducted earlier this month, the legislative committee of the Nashville-based Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) has thrown its support in the May 1 primary to ten judicial candidates for in Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson county.

T-GALA also gave support to a candidate in the public defender race.

According to committee chair Robb McCluskey, the questionnaire was developed with assistance from the San Francisco-based Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF).

"We felt that the judicial races should be a primary focus right now," McCluskey explained. "The judgeships are most important. All candidates will be polled for the August primary and November general elections."

McCluskey said T-GALA also plans to be active in the 1990 campaign for Metro council members.

Legislative committee members sent letters and questionnaires to 35 judicial candidates. Of those, ten



Jim Grooms (above) and his lover, Ray Ankrum, talk about the facts of life in "Living with AIDS," this week's *Centerpiece* on page 8. — DARE PHOTO BY LAURA TEK

candidates responded. McCluskey said that two candidates — Barbara Haynes and Walter Kurtz — who did not meet the April 20 deadline for filing their answers were given support because of their previous records.

"Included are several candidates who in the past have been supportive of the gay and lesbian cause," McCluskey said.

In races for circuit court judge, T-GALA's legislative committee gave support to: Hamilton "Kip" Gayden, division one; Marietta Shipley, division two; Haynes, division three;

✦ *Continued on page 13*

President signs hate crimes bill

Lesbian/gay leaders are invited to the White House to witness historic event on Monday

by CURTIS BALLS
Staff Writer

Lesbian and gay Americans were invited to the White House Monday to witness President Bush's signing of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act.

The signing marks the first time in American history that "sexual orientation" will be included in a federal law and the first time in history that openly lesbian and gay Americans have been invited to a White House bill signing ceremony.

Representatives of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) attended the ceremony.

"Individuals who represented the national grass roots and community efforts on this issue were invited to attend the ceremonies," said Peri Jude Radecic, Capitol Hill lobbyist for NGLTF.

Among those included on the guest list were Kevin Berrill, director of NGLTF's anti-violence project, and Art Scheneck, of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force, who, Radecic said, "best personifies the grass roots organizing on the issue."

Also in attendance was Frank Ricchiazzi, an organizer for the Gay Republican Clubs in California. Radecic said Ricchiazzi "was extremely helpful in getting the legislation passed at this time." Urvashi Vaid had been on the list of invited guests but was not cleared by the White House due to her recent disruption of Bush's recent AIDS speech.

Radecic termed the bill-signing ceremony a significant event in contemporary lesbian/gay history, because it "is the first time Congress has dealt with a single

sexual orientation bill and the first time a President has signed one. It is the first acknowledgement by a President and Congress of the existence of gay and lesbian hate crimes."

"The Hate Crimes Statistics Act has been one of the highest priorities of lesbian and gay Americans for several years. The Campaign Fund is proud of the role we played in bringing it into law. Now, we must continue to press the President and the Congress to move on other issues—including adequate funding for AIDS—that are of vital importance to each of us," said Tim McFeeley, HRCF's executive director.

"We need to recognize that it was a Republican President who signed the bill into law, and I hope that this will encourage

gay and lesbian Republicans everywhere to come out of the closet and begin to work with this Administration on gay and lesbian issues."

Radecic said lobbyists are aware of recent reports of a proposed cut in the Justice Department's budget, but she said she doubted such a cut would effect the hate crimes statistics law. She said efforts have already begun to secure adequate funding for the collection of statistics. ✦



Peri Jude Radecic, Capitol Hill lobbyist for NGLTF. — DARE FILE PHOTO

Commentary: AIDSWALK 1990

More than just a moving experience for the marchers

by JACKI MOSS
Staff Writer

The final figures aren't in yet on AIDSWALK Nashville, but no matter what the financial tally, the walk is already a success. Here are some scenes from the walk:

The "Howdee!" heard 'round the world by Minnie Pearl echoed throughout Vanderbilt Stadium and deeper into the hearts of people who like this woman called Minnie Pearl, but who love the woman who is Sarah Cannon.

The group of walkers was an amalgam of people who were melded together by their love of people. There were men, women, straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, chil-

dren and even dogs. We all walked for those who cannot. Walkers can attest to the fact that Tennessee is indeed make up of rolling hills. Steep rolling hills.

People driving by in cars yelled things at us. Things like, "Hey, Good work! Keep it up!" And they applauded us as they drove by. And some even waved — with all their fingers!

The spotters along the way not only directed us, but made sure we were okay. When they asked how we were doing, we knew it wasn't just idle chatter. Their encouragement and concern made our load lighter.

At the halfway point, there were healthy liquids, healthy foods and

smiling faces to stoke us back up for the final leg of the walk.

Mothers and fathers carried children on their backs and pushed them in buggys along the route.

The walkers seemed almost reverent in mood. This is not to say we did not have a good time. There was humor and fun, but the real joy came in knowing that we were making some small, visible impact for people with AIDS.

Again and again throughout the rest of the day and the next, I heard myself and other walkers say the same thing. "I was really, really tired and my muscles really hurt, but you know, I sure am lucky. I'm healthy enough to do this. Some of my friends aren't. This is for them." ✦

inside Dare



✦ People and places

Our listings of meetings, events and resources are expanded, so mark your calendar, page 2.

✦ Tracking star appeal

A new book by Camille Paglia traces the origins of cultural phenomena. Pages, page 12.

✦ A new columnist

Why are some people gay? In focus, page 14.

Resources

+ Friends, neighbors and networks

Memphis



- **Agape New Life Church** Wednesdays: Bible study, 7pm. Sundays: Sunday School, 9:30am; Worship services, 11am & 7pm. Info (901) 276-1872.
- **Coffeehouse** Produced by Feminist Productions. Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison. 3rd Friday only, 8pm. \$2 donation. Info (901) 276-0844.
- **Gay Alternative Hour** Radio show, WEVL-FM 90. Mondays, 6-7pm.
- **GayRap** Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison. 3rd Monday, 7pm. Info (901) 324-GAYS.
- **Into the Light** (Women's Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting. Memphis Lambda Center, 241 North Cleveland. Thursdays, 8pm; Sundays, noon. Info (901) 276-7379.
- **Lambda Men's Chorus** Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison. Tuesdays, 7:30pm. Info (901) 324-GAYS.
- **Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center** Board meeting, 1291 Madison. 3rd Saturday, 11:30am. Info (901) 324-GAYS or 454-1411.
- **Memphis Gay Coalition** Business meeting, Rm A, Memphis Public Library, Peabody & Maclean. 1st Monday. Info (901) 324-4297.
- **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 meetings. Memphis Lambda Center, 241 North Cleveland. Mondays, 8pm; Tuesdays, 5:30 & 8pm; Wednesday, 8pm; Thursdays, 5:30pm; Fridays, 5:30 and 10pm; Saturdays, 8pm; Sundays, 8pm. Info (901) 272-9549.
- **Potluck dinner** Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison. 1st Saturday, 7pm. Info (901) 324-GAYS or 454-1411.
- **Seriously Sober** (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting. Memphis Lambda Center, 241 North Cleveland. Fridays, 8pm. Info (901) 272-9549.
- **Twisted Sisters** (ACOA) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center, 241 North Cleveland. Saturdays, noon. Info (901) 276-7379.
- **Video Night** Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison. 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 8pm. Info (901) 324-GAYS or 454-1411.
- **Western Dance lessons** Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison. 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7:30pm. Info (901) 324-GAYS or 454-1411.

Murfreesboro



- **MTSU Lambda** Support group for lesbian and gay students, faculty, staff and alumni of Middle Tennessee State University. Fridays, 6pm. Info (615) 895-9749.

Nashville



- **Affirmation** Meeting for lesbian and gay United Methodists. 4th Wednesday, 7pm. Info (615) 254-7628.
- **Al-Anon** Closed meeting. MCC, 131 15th Ave North. Tuesdays, 6:30pm.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group** Meeting, Belmont United Methodist, 2007 Acklen Ave. Fridays, 7:30 pm.
- **Alternatives** (Alcoholics Anonymous) Closed meeting for lesbians & gay men. 131 15th Ave North. Thursdays, 8pm.
- **Being Meeting** Gay & lesbian Co-Dependents Anonymous. At 168 2nd Av North. Thursdays, 6:30pm; Saturdays, 4pm. Info (615) 244-7346 or 646-2238.
- **Gay / Lesbian Addictions Anonymous** Meeting, Belmont United Methodist Church, 2007 Acklen. Wednesdays, 8pm.
- **Incest Survivors Anonymous** First Church Unity, 5125 Franklin Rd. Thursdays: Closed women's meeting, 6:30pm. Saturdays: Open meeting, 5:30pm. Sundays: Closed men's & women's meeting, 6pm.
- **Lambda Group** Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men & lesbians, Unitarian Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd. Mondays, 8pm.
- **Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics** (ACOA) Belmont United Methodist Church, 2007 Acklen Ave. Thursdays, 7:30pm.
- **MAGNET** (Married & Gay Network) Support group for married gay men. MCC, 131 15th Av North. 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:30pm. Info (615) 320-0288.
- **Metropolitan Community Church** 131 15th Av North. Saturdays: community dinner, all you can eat, \$5. 7:30pm. Sundays: worship services, 11am & 7pm. Info (615) 320-0288.
- **Music City Sports Association** Softball league. At Whitfield Park, Edmondson Pike. Games Sundays at 1, 2 & 3pm. Info (615) 385-9689.
- **Nashville CARES** Tuesdays: HIV+ support group, 6pm; AIDS/ARC support group, 6:30pm. Wednesdays: newcomers support/education group, 6pm. Thursdays: visualization group, 7:15pm. Alternate Fridays: family & caregivers together sharing, 6pm. Info (615) 385-1510.
- **Nashville Women's Alliance** At Book Oasis. 3rd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:30pm. Info (615) 883-4833.
- **NLC** Channel 35. Tuesdays, 9pm. Saturdays, 8pm.
- **One in Teen** Support group for lesbian & gay teens. Wednesdays, 6:30pm. Info (615) 297-0008.
- **P-FLAG** Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays meeting, 4th Tuesday. Unitarian Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd. 7:30pm. Info (615) 662-0332.
- **Sex Addicts Anonymous** At MCC, 131 15th Av North. Wednesdays: closed meeting for gay men & lesbians, 5:30pm. Fridays: closed meeting, 5pm.
- **Sober Sisters** (Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, 131 15th Av North. Tuesdays, 8pm.
- **Vanderbilt AIDS Project** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays: women's support group, 6:30pm; caregivers' support group, 7pm. Thursdays: AIDS / ARC men's group, 7pm. 1st & 3rd Thursdays: family support group, 7pm. Info (615) 322-AIDS.
- **Women's Chorus** At Bethlehem Center, 1417 Charlotte. Sundays, 4-6pm. Info (615) 353-1336.

Chattanooga



- **Chattanooga CARES** Closed support group. Mondays, 6:30pm. Info (615) 266-2422.
- **Gay/Lesbian AA** Open meeting. Unitarian Church, 3224 Navajo Dr. Thursdays, 8pm; No-smoke meeting Saturdays, 7pm.
- **Lesbian & Gay CoDA** Co-Dependents Anonymous. Reflections, Harrison. Sundays, 12:30pm. Info (615) 267-7824.
- **Metropolitan Community Church** Worship service, 3224 Navajo Dr. Sundays, 6:30pm.

Clarksville



- **Clarksville CARES** Support group for HIV+, ARC, AIDS, family & partners. 1st & 3rd Mondays, 3pm. Info (615) 648-7730.

Knoxville



- **aids Response Knoxville** Mondays: PWA support group, 7-8:30pm. Tuesdays: Circle of Love family & friends support group, 8pm. Wednesdays: HIV+ support group, 6:30pm. Info (615) 523-AIDS.
- **Gay and Lesbian Student Union/UTK** Weekly meeting. Tuesdays, 8pm. Info (615) 595-8686.
- **Gay Gratitude Group** Open, nonsmoking Alcoholics Anonymous. Mondays: Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 3219 Kingston Pike, 7pm. Fridays: MCC / Knoxville, 1320 North Central, noon.
- **Lesbian Codependents Anonymous** At aRK offices, 1320 North Central. Fridays, 8pm. Info (615) 933-8393.
- **Metropolitan Community Church** Worship service. Corner Weisgarber & Lonas. Sundays, 6pm. Info (615) 521-6546.
- **UT Gay Christian / Nonchristian Support Group** UT Humanities Bldg 53A. Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Info (615) 584-6934.

Tri-Cities



- **Appalachian AIDS Coalition** Support group for PWAs, ARC, & HIV+ in southwest Virginia, including Bristol, TN. 3rd Thursday. Info (703) 985-0131.
- **Gay & Lesbian AA** Holston Valley Unitarian Church. Sundays, 4pm.
- **LE TSA** Lesbians of East Tennessee & Surrounding Areas social / support group. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays. Info Box 905 Mountain Home, TN 37684.
- **Metropolitan Community Church** Fridays: Women's Night, 7pm; Men's Night, 7pm. Sundays: worship service, 7pm. Holston Valley Unitarian Church. Info (615) 926-4393.
- **Tri-Cities AIDS Project** (TAP). Support group for care-givers / families of PWAs, HIV+ & ARC, 6:30pm. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays. Info (615) 928-6101 or 753-9647.

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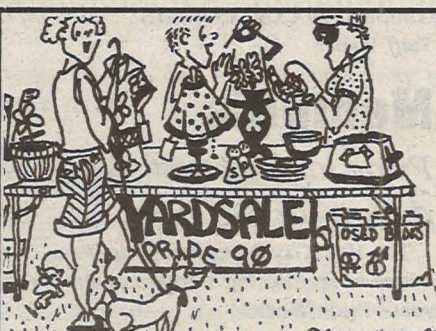


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Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly

Hot Dates



+ Big events

Thursday-Sunday, April 26-29
Outing GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE. Nashville Outdoor Women's Network. Info (615) 834-4517.

Saturday, April 28
Yard Sale Benefits PRIDE '90. At 1401 Cedar Ln, Nashville. 8am-5pm. Info (615) 297-4293.
Party SPRING FLING. Black & White Men Together / Memphis. 8pm. Info (901) 726-1461.
Women's Dance Random Productions. At Laurel Theatre, 1538 Laurel Ave, Knoxville. 8pm. Info (615) 688-3428.
Benefit Show Fundraiser to pay for PWAs' T-cell counts at Lentz Public Health Center. At the Jungle Lounge, 306 4th Ave South, Nashville. Info (615) 256-9411.

Sunday, April 29
Picnic Vanderbilt Lambda Association spring picnic. At Fannie Mae Dees Park, Nashville. Bring food, frisbees. 2-5pm.

Tuesday, May 1
PRIMARY ELECTION DAY Don't forget — your vote counts!

Sunday, May 6
Dance Marathon Fundraiser for Nashville Pride Week '90. 5pm. Info (615) 297-4293.

Monday, May 7
Consciousness Raising Black & White Men Together / Memphis. 7:30pm. Info (901) 726-1461.
Meeting Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance monthly board meeting. At 2000 Richard Jones Rd, Nashville. Info (615) 297-4293.

Saturday, May 12
Meeting and picnic 12 STEPS FOR EVERYONE. 1pm. Knoxville. Info (615) 521-6546.
Women's dance Workshop, 10am-2pm, bring bag lunch. Dance, 8pm. At Laurel Theatre, 1538 Laurel Av, Knoxville. Info (615) 688-3428

fine art photographs by jan lynch

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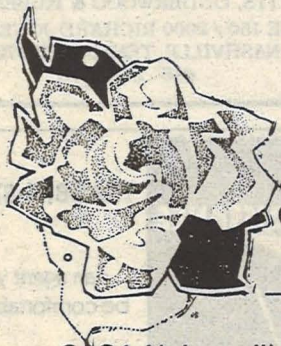
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Local Color

compiled by CURTIS BALLS
Staff Writer

Memphis

*Pride logo contest seeks
design for '90 event*

The 1990 Gay & Lesbian Pride Week Committee is sponsoring a logo contest for this year's Pride Week.

The logo will be used on buttons, posters, and booklets for Pride Week activities. The winner of the contest will receive two tickets to this year's Gay Pride River Ride and will be introduced at the opening ceremonies Sunday, June 17, at the Community Center.

Contestants should take their logo ideas to the Community Center or mail them to: Pride Committee, c/o MGLCC, 1291 Madison, Memphis, TN 38104. ✦

*MGLCC growth continues,
needs more volunteers*

Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center is growing as more are volunteering and helping to administer the Center's programs and functions, spokespersons say.

The Memphis Lambda Men's Chorus, Gay-Rap, Third Friday Night Coffee House and Gay and Lesbian Parents are just a few of the groups who depend on the Center for meeting and performance space.

The newest activity will be meditation and relaxation sessions which will be held at the center beginning Sunday nights.

The Center's regular hours are Fridays and Saturdays 7 p.m. to midnight, and Sundays 2-7 p.m.

For further information about volunteer opportunities, call (901) 725-5230. ✦

Nashville

*MCSA softball season enters
third week of action*

Following the Easter week layoff, softball action was again under way at Whitfield Park last Sunday with Music City Storm, Nashville Numbers and Warehouse Warriors all scoring big victories.

Scores from Sunday's games were: Music City Storm 31, Juanita's Zippers 6; Nashville Numbers 22, C.C. Shooters 3; Warehouse Warriors 34, Juanita's Zippers 2.

This brings the league standings to: Music City Storm 3-0; Warehouse Warriors 3-1; Nashville Numbers 2-1; Juanita's Zippers 1-3; and C.C. Shooters 0-4.

The next games are scheduled for Sunday, April 29 at Whitfield Park. ✦

*'Steel Magnolias' has
Nashville stage premiere*

Tennessee Repertory Theatre will present STEEL MAGNOLIAS, Robert Harling's portrayal of six Southern women as they deal with love, death, gossip and hairspray.

The play, on which the successful movie version was based, features only the six female roles and a more intimate feel than the movie because of a focus on the development

of each of the six characters.

Steven Kent, a veteran of several previous TRT productions, will direct Nan Gurley as Truvy Jones, Robie Jones as Shelby, Mary Jane Harvill as M'Lynn Eatenton, Frances Kemp as Clairée, Janelle Cochran as Ouiser and Katie Prange as Annelle.

STEEL MAGNOLIAS opens Thursday, May 10 at 8 p.m. Tickets (\$8.50 and \$16.50) are on sale now at all Ticketmaster locations or can be charged by calling (615) 741-2787 or 1-800-333-4849. ✦

*Women face '90s issues at
YWCA conference*

The YWCA and CABLE will sponsor a conference on women facing the 21st century which will be a discussion and exchange of ideas and a sharing of strategies about women's status.

Conference topics will address what's next for women who have benefitted from the sacrifices made by others during the last thirty years. Main speakers will be Betty Nixon and Rep. Karen Williams (R-Memphis).

The conference will be April 28, at 9 a.m., at the YWCA. Cost is \$16 (including box lunch). For more details call (615) 269-9922. ✦

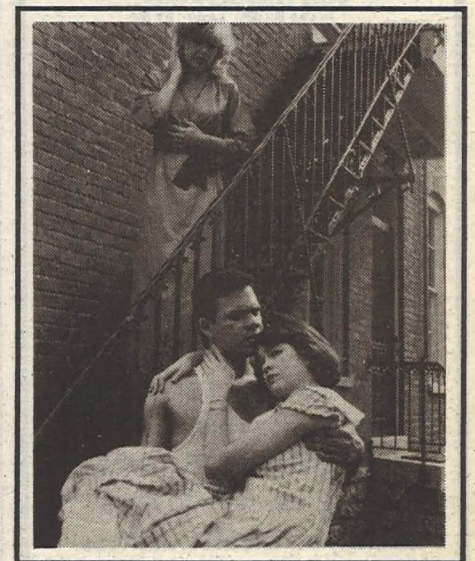
Tri-Cities

*Nancy Wilson to speak at
MCC this Sunday*

Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of the Tri-Cities will host Nancy Wilson as their special guest speaker on Sunday, April 29.

Wilson is currently the pastor of MCC's Mother Church in Los Angeles. She has also served on the Board of Elders for the past 10 years and is known throughout the denomination as a stimulating and dynamic speaker.

For more information call MCC pastor Tam Schult at (615) 926-4393. ✦



Cinda McCain (on fire escape) stars as Blanche DuBois in the Artists' Cooperative Theatre I (ACT I) production of Tennessee Williams' A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE, to be presented April 27-May 12 at the Z. Alexander Looby Theatre in Nashville. The play also stars Brian Hull as Stanley and Virginia Burke as Stella. For details, call (615) 885-5821. — PHOTO BY PAUL FELTON

Cross Country

compiled by **KAREN MATHIS**
Editorial Assistant

Los Angeles

Christian gets \$5.5 million in punitive damages

Marc Christian, Rock Hudson's ex-lover who won \$5.5 million from the Hudson estate last year in a landmark AIDS lawsuit, has been awarded another \$5.5 million in punitive damages for a loss of "his reputation, shame and mortification."

Christian said that the authors, Tom Clark and Dick Kleiner, of a book about the late actor portrayed him as a psychotic criminal.

ROCK HUDSON, FRIEND OF MINE, released last month, referred to Christian as "a criminal, a thief, an unclean person, a blackmailer, a psychotic, an extortionist, a forger, a perjurer, a liar, a whore, an arsonist and a squatter," the lawsuit said. ✚

San Francisco

CIA asks for dismissal of discrimination suit

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) asked for a dismissal of a lawsuit against them last month in a San Francisco federal court.

Julie Dubbs sued the CIA in 1985, claiming it discriminated against her and other gay men and lesbians by refusing to grant them access to highly secret information concerning technical systems for collecting intelligence.

After applying for a security clearance to work on defense contracts for the company for which she worked, the Army approved the clearance, but the CIA denied it two years later. Dubbs said the denial cost her job opportunities.

The CIA says that gay men and lesbians are vulnerable to blackmail by foreign agents because sodomy is not constitutionally protected and is illegal in half the states.

"Homosexuality is one characteristic that hostile intelligence agencies are likely to target, and at least some homosexuals may be coerced or manipulated" into revealing government secrets, said Patrick Soreck, Justice Department lawyer for the CIA, in court March 23.

U.S. District Court Judge Eugene Lynch is considering the government's request for dismissal. ✚

Houston

Gay/Lesbian civil rights bill gets 76th co-sponsor

Congressman Craig Washington (D-Texas) has announced that he will cosponsor the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Washington, elected to the House with strong support of Houston's gay and lesbian community, is the 76th cosponsor of the bill in the House.

"It is time to include lesbians and gay men into the Civil Rights Act where they should have been included from the beginning," Washington stated in a speech before

Houston's gay and lesbian community on April 12. ✚

Washington

Big Brothers to rescind policy that bans gays

Big Brothers of the National Capitol Area has agreed to end its policy of refusing gay volunteers.

The formalized settlement of the lawsuit by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund ensures that Big Brothers will treat an applicant's sexual orientation in the same manner that they would treat other personal characteristics such as race or religion and will no longer refuse volunteer role models because they are gay.

In September 1988, Big Brothers refused to allow Jeffrey Gould, an experienced health educator with a master's degree in counseling, to volunteer with the agency because of his sexual orientation.

As a part of the settlement, Big Brothers will also institute a "gay sensitivity" training session for all staff and will do outreach to the gay community to publicize the policy change and volunteer opportunities. ✚

Washington

Tight budget may kill 'hate crimes' bill

President Bush is believed ready to sign a bill requiring the government to keep track of "hate crimes" against minorities, but the sponsor says the program could be torpedoed by a budget squeeze at the FBI.

"The implementation of the landmark hate crimes legislation will be severely hampered if the staff responsible for administering the law at the FBI is reduced," said Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.).

Schumer made the comment last Friday after the FBI acknowledged that it is considering a proposal to discontinue its uniform crime report — an account of crimes in America.

Under the recently approved hate-crimes bill, the Justice Department is to keep statistics on offenses related to race, religion, sexual orientation and ethnicity as part of the uniform crime report. ✚

Birmingham

Pride Week plans present changes, additions

The Gay Pride Week Coalition has applied for permits which will change the location and times of events scheduled for Sunday, June 24.

Rather than a Southside route for the parade, the coalition has applied for a route permit in the downtown area to begin at Kelly Ingram Park and end at Lynn Park, which is situated between Birmingham City Hall and Jefferson County Court House.

The Coalition is planning five hours of continuous entertainment for the afternoon, according to a report in the April issue of THE ALABAMA FORUM. ✚

ENDORSEMENTS

The
Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance
is proud to endorse the
following candidates for office
in Davidson County:

Circuit Court Judges:

Division 1 **Hamilton "Kip" Gayden**
Division 2 **Marietta Shipley**
Division 3 **Barbara Haynes**
Division 5 **Walter Kurtz**

Criminal Court Judges:

Division 4 **Bill Bruce**

Juvenile Court Judge:

Andy Shookhoff

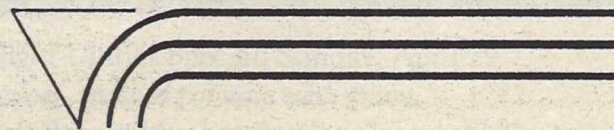
General Sessions Judges:

Division 1 **Fred Dance**
Division 3 **William Faimon**
Division 4 **Michael Mondelli**
Division 7 **Bill Higgins**

Public Defender:

Karl Dean

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The 1990 Census gives lesbian and gay couples a chance to be counted for the first time, just by checking the box marked "unmarried couple." It's a terrific opportunity to show our numbers. Still, some people are afraid to fill out their Census forms accurately. They think the information might be used to discriminate against them. But the fact is that the U.S. Census Bureau maintains high standards of confidentiality. By law, Census information about individuals can't be released to anyone. Not even the President of the United States.

Answer the lavender question.
The 1990 U.S. Census. Stand up and be counted.

A public service message from Dare. © 1990 Pyramid Light & Power

Persistence of Vision

✦ Thelonius Monk, the movie

THELONIOUS MONK: STRAIGHT, NO CHASER.
Directed by Charlotte Zwerin. 1988.

reviewed by FLYNNE MALONE
Staff Writer

The title is ironic. Be-bop jazz pianist Thelonius Sphere Monk was not straight in the traditional meaning of the word, and he was chased by private, internal devils.

Of course, the title actually refers to one of his visionary musical works, of which this feature-length documentary is packed to overflow. In strength turned to weakness, many, too many, works are played in their entirety.

Be-bop of the '50s was a nascent expression of black independence and power. Big man Monk was "a founder and a foundation" of the style that pushed conventional composition to new vistas.

For the jazz novice, his music is bold and yet very accessible. As Thelonius said, "I want it to be as easy as possible so people will dig it."

The period footage is fascinating in its intimacy. Here is open-mouthed Monk in a sweaty trance, on stage playing in his flat-fingered, percussive, rough style.

Here is Monk on the road trying to order chicken livers from his hotel bed.

Here is his devoted wife Nellie helping him on with his coat. Here is Monk in the recording sessions that were to make his music international. The camera is so close in all of these situations that a structural flaw in the film emerges.

Monk became increasingly mentally disturbed to the point that, in the end, he quit playing. His case became so extreme that his son recalls how Monk would look at him and not recognize his namesake child. The film is frustrating because we are literally in the man's face, and yet his mental illness is treated quite mysteriously.

Clint Eastwood, who produced the Charlie Parker film BIRD, also produced this film. BIRD was criticized for dwelling on Parker's drug addiction, but if this was an intentional correction, STRAIGHT, NO CHASER bends too far over backward.

We need to know more about Monk the man, not just hear his music.

The black and white cinema verité footage was shot in the late '60s by the noted Blackwood brothers, Christian and Michael, for a German television special that was only aired once.

Intercut are some contemporary interviews with close associates, family, and some Monk selections played by contemporary pianists. These performances begin to contrast too favorably with Monk's slam-bang technique that begins to grate.

A master at creation, he fell short in finessing the keys into the full expression of the magnificence in his mind.

Monk's background may be a reason for his limited playing style. Born in Rocky Mountain, North Carolina, in 1917, he went to New York. Playing before he had lessons, he attended Julliard where he received his first in-

struction. The film gives no clue as to how he gained entrance to Julliard, a potentially fascinating omission.

In 1944, Coleman Hawkins hired him, and Monk was off and running.

And turning in circles, literally. In a child-like movement, Monk is shown repeatedly spinning around and around, as though trying to unwind an improperly wound inner ear, or as in an autistic trance with no exit.

He grins and mumbles, "People say, 'Oh,

*Be-bop of the '50s
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*For the jazz novice,
his music is bold and
yet very accessible.*

*As Thelonius Monk
himself said,
"I want it to be as easy
as possible so people
will dig it."*

that Thelonius Monk, he's crazy."

To which Monk adds, "Thank you."

During the last years of his life, Monk spent a great deal of time in the company of Baroness Nica de Koenigswarter, who lived in Weehauken, New Jersey, with an inspiring view of Manhattan across the river. The place was nicknamed "Catville" for its numerous feline inhabitants, but it was not sanctuary enough for Monk.

In time, he "just didn't feel like playing anymore."

Monk reported once to the Baroness, "I am seriously ill."

He died in 1982 from the effects of a cerebral hemorrhage. Fittingly, his wife Nellie was with him.

STRAIGHT, NO CHASER has some problems as a film. There's too much playing and not enough exposition to place the playing in context.

But for anyone who cares about jazz, it's just too precious to pass up. ✦



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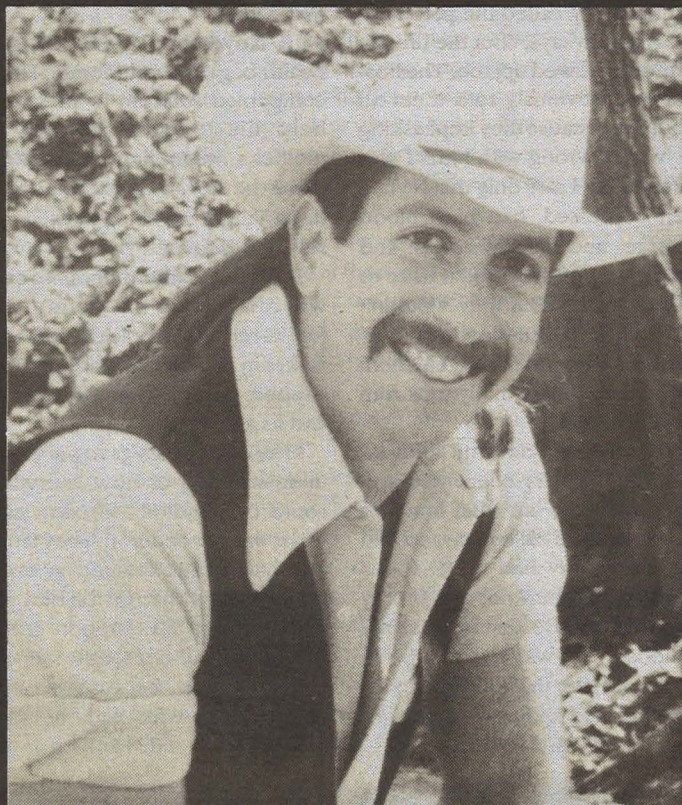
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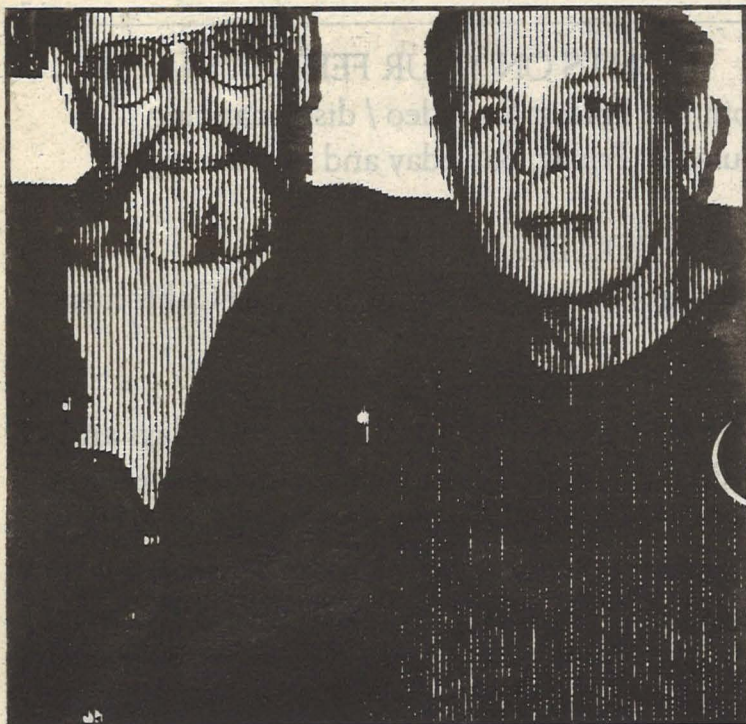
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Ray Ankrom (left) and Jim Grooms

Text and photos
by **LAURA TEK**
Staff Writer

✦

*"I have learned
to take my life one day at a time
and to be grateful," he says.
"I'm grateful for
simply being able to use my
hands again. I get down
sometimes when I think of the
things I should have done
and the things I wanted to do
and now I can't."*

✦

Only ten months ago, amid the excitement of gay and lesbian Pride Week 1989 and the observance of the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, Jim Grooms and Ray Ankrom talked with reporters about their unique perspectives of the gay/lesbian civil rights movement.

As a young dancer in New York City, Grooms was spending a night on the town with friends when police raided the Stonewall Inn. The raid signaled the beginning of an era of change for gay men and lesbians all over the country.

Several years after Stonewall, the community changed once more as the first cases of AIDS were reported. Now, Grooms and Ankrom are experiencing AIDS themselves. Talking about it, they say, helps them to deal with the day-to-day realities of living with the disease.

Talking about AIDS is difficult for Grooms, but with his trademark candor he answers the easy questions gracefully, the difficult ones with finesse. Had you met him earlier, he would have likely talked to you about the ballet, perhaps his first love.

Grooms is a pattern maker for Nashville Ballet's costume shop, having recently completed all the patterns for the company's production of the holiday classic, *THE NUTCRACKER*.

At the time of this interview, he had just been released from the hospital. He has lost some control of his speech and tires easily. Ankrom, his lover, helped to recount the pair's experiences.

Grooms, 50, and Ankrom, 46, have been together for just over two years. They met in November, 1987, and became seriously involved two months later.

In March, 1988, Grooms spent three weeks in a hospital for treatment of alcoholism and suicidal tendencies. It was during that hospital stay that he found he was HIV positive.

"The hospital (Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute) handled the whole thing very badly," Ankrom remembers. "When they told him he was infected with HIV, they informed the entire staff and immediately isolated him. He was put

into a private room and his meals given to him separately from the other patients. He was not allowed contact with the other patients. He received no counseling. This caused him a lot of depression."

"I don't know how I became infected with HIV. I moved to Nashville in 1986, had my first test then, and it was negative," Grooms says.

"BEFORE THE HOSPITAL would release me, I had to tell everyone I was HIV positive. The hospital told my landlord that I was infected and he told me I to find another place to live. I couldn't believe it. Then the hospital called Ray and told him that I needed a place to stay or I couldn't be released," Grooms says.

Despite his illness, Grooms continued to drink heavily. His relationship with Ankrom became shaky. In July of that year, Grooms' depression overwhelmed him and he tried to kill himself by taking huge amounts of anti-depressant pills and drinking two bottles of vodka.

"When I saw him that evening I saw that he had been drinking. I got mad at him and we ended up not going out that night as we had planned. Later I found him in the alley outside my house.

"I had only called the paramedics," Ankrom says. "But the fire department showed up, too. The hospital had obviously told them all about Jim because they kept asking me 'what's wrong with him?' I was stunned, but I said only that he had been depressed, had high blood pressure, and kidney stones, and that outside of that, 'you'll have to ask his doctor.' But they wouldn't stop, they kept pressing me for information. I refused to tell them anymore and they finally took him to the hospital.

"Later the next day, my landlord called me up very concerned and upset and told me that the fire department had called him and told him that Jimmy had AIDS. I was furious. I told him no, that Jimmy did not have AIDS, that he was only HIV-positive. It was very traumatic. I found out later that the fire department had also told all of my neighbors as well," Ankrom maintains.

"When he was in the hospital they gave him charcoal to absorb the poisons from his body and it made his lips black. I wasn't prepared for that and was horrified when I saw him. But I held his hand and told him 'Jimmy, don't try to talk but if you can hear me and if you love me, squeeze my hand.' He didn't," Ankrom remembers.

"The next morning the nurse called me up and I expected the worst, but she said 'Jimmy's doing just fine. He wants you to bring him a book, his cross-stitch and he wants me to tell you that he just ate two breakfasts.' He made a remarkable recovery, he bounced right back."

"I tried to commit suicide because I wanted to be healthy," Grooms claims. "I was scared because I didn't know what I would be facing, and that I would somehow spread it. I also thought I had developed pneumocystis pneumonia and that I was already pretty sick. But I was lucky to be alive and I realize now that I made it through for a reason — that I was suppose to be alive.

After his release from the hospital he applied for disability benefits and sought counseling at Luton Mental Health Center. Two months later, Grooms and Ankrom moved in together.

In November, 1988, Grooms' health began to deteriorate. He accompanied Ankrom to Indiana to help his lover cope with his mother's impending death. While there, he began to experience fatigue, night sweats, nausea and severe headaches.

Later that same month, Grooms was diagnosed as having ARC (AIDS-related complex) and he and Ankrom started attending AIDS support groups, both individually and as a couple.

"The counselors gave me a great understanding of how everything could be handled," Grooms says. "They were wonderful. They taught me that mental attitude is everything, that I have to do the best with what I've got. The support groups were also invaluable, especially the couples group, because we were with people who had the same problems we did. Nothing in our

Piece

with AIDS

Ankrom, it's a fact of life

lives was untouched anymore, everything was affected; our relationship, our sexuality, everything."

GROOMS' DOCTORS THEN prescribed AZT, the drug most commonly used by people with AIDS. He also quit drinking and started attending 12-step meetings.

By December 1989, Grooms' health problems continued to mount when doctors discovered gallstones and severe gall bladder problems that had long gone undetected.

"Jim needed surgery on his gall bladder but was in a very weakened condition. They put him on a lot of antibiotics to strengthen him because they wanted to avoid putting him through major surgery. They tried breaking the stones up with ultrasonics, but they were too big, so that didn't work. They they wanted to go into his navel but he had had previous surgeries and had too much scar tissue, so that didn't work either. They ended up having no choice but to cut," Ankrom says.

"The one surgeon who suggested operating through Jim's navel refused to do the major surgery. Whether it was his fear of becoming HIV infected or for Jim's health, it never became known. But by February, 1990, we finally found a surgeon who was willing to do the surgery. The operation turned out to be a lot more serious than they had anticipated. He was under the knife for three and a half hours and in intensive care for over a week. There was a lot of infection. His fever was 104 for five days. He spent five weeks recovering in the hospital. But he again made a miraculous recovery," says Ankrom.

"BY THIS TIME IT WAS MID-March, 1990, and he had been out of the hospital for only a couple of weeks when he started spiking fevers again. We called Jim's doctor, who has been wonderful. We have his home number and beeper and can reach him anytime we need to. When we told him what was happening, he told us to come in right away. He immediately noticed that the right side of Jim's face was drooping. We hadn't noticed it but the doctor said Jim had palsy."

"I did notice that it was difficult for me to do cross stitch, that I seemed to have lost some control of my right hand, but I thought that was only because I was still weak from the gall bladder surgery," Grooms says.

"They wanted Jim back into the hospital again and put him on antibiotics right away because he was very weak. They then put him through a whole battery of tests. A stroke was ruled out right away but the CAT scan picked up a lesion on the left side of his brain. The doctors then had to determine what kind of a lesion it was so they could treat it.

"By this time he couldn't talk at all anymore and had completely lost the use of his right hand. He needed a speaking machine to communicate," Ankrom says.

"I was so frustrated because I could think of what I wanted to say, but I couldn't say it, and I couldn't write it either," Grooms recalls. "Losing the use of my hand frightened me most because I had sewn all my life. The thought of not being able to do that again...well, I just couldn't think about it."

"Losing his motor control was very scary for him. He'd call me on the phone from the hospital and try to talk and I'd try to understand him, but I couldn't," Ankrom says. "I'd tell him not to struggle and to wait till I got there. It was so painful to see him this way because we didn't know whether he'd ever regain his speech or use his hand again or not. After talking to him on the phone, I would often just break down and cry and cry."

After two days of tests, the doctors still had not determined the exact nature of the lesion and informed Grooms and Ankrom that they had no choice but to perform a biopsy.

"They shaved the left side of his head — his new punk hairstyle he calls it now — and put clamps all around his head. Then they drilled a hole into his skull and inserted a needle into his brain. He was awake the whole time. It was frightening, but the clamps on his head made him look like he had a halo on.

"I call him my little angel," Ankrom says. "While he was undergoing the biopsy, I just sat in the chapel

and prayed for a long time. I told God that we would submit to His will for us and asked Him to please have mercy on us."

Finally, the doctors determined that the lesion was caused by toxic plasmosis. It was Grooms' first opportunistic infection.

He had full blown AIDS.

"WE WERE DEVASTATED, but never lost hope," Ankrom says. "Jim improved so quickly again, his speech was getting better and everyone, the nurses and doctors, told him so, but at first Jim didn't believe it. Then, one morning he called me all excited. He was speaking much better and he said, 'they're talking my IV out today and guess what? I can move my hand!'"

The realization that his physical condition helped to make a believer of Jim Grooms and he began the all-important task of reclaiming his health.

About that time, doctors decided to take Grooms off AZT treatment, because it was causing his red blood cell count to drop too much, making him weak and anemic. After two blood transfusions, doctors began to treat him with ddI, an experimental new drug available only on protocol for people who can't take AZT.

The two men are rarely idle.

"We have a lot of things to keep us busy," Ankrom contends. "For instance, there's a lot of medicine to keep track of. We have it all written out on paper, like when he's supposed to take what and when, what pills are to be taken with food, and what can be taken on an empty stomach. It's a heavy schedule.

"Since Jim is unable to do much around the house, I'm busy keeping the house together. I'm fortunate in that I'm between work assignments right now, because taking care of Jim has become a full-time job. I'm also active in our church. Staying busy keeps me sane."

Does Ankrom ever feel the urge to leave?

"Jim gave me the chance to leave last Thanksgiving when a lot of things had happened to us all at once. Both our therapists went off into other practices, the CARES couples group ended its ten week

run and there were problems at Metropolitan Community Church. Our whole support network shattered and scattered.

"We also have this friend whose lover had just died and we saw what he had gone through, taking care of him during the last year of his life. Our friend wound up becoming ill himself.

"Jim said he didn't want to see me go through that and gave me the chance to leave. But I said, nothing doing. 'I'm committed,' I said. 'I love you and I'm going to stick this out. We'll go through whatever it takes.' I thought Jim was very generous for giving me that opportunity."

For Grooms, who points to pride at a framed photograph from THE NUTCRACKER showing his work, living with AIDS has meant making adjustments in his life. But he's not yet ready to give up.

"I have learned to take my life one day at a time and to be grateful," he says. "I'm grateful for simply being able to use my hands again. I get down sometimes when I think of the things I should have done and the things I wanted to do and now I can't. Like New York. I haven't been back there since 1969 and I'd love to see it again. But it will be a long time before I can take a long trip like that again. I also love Short Mountain and hope to visit there again soon. I try to look forward."

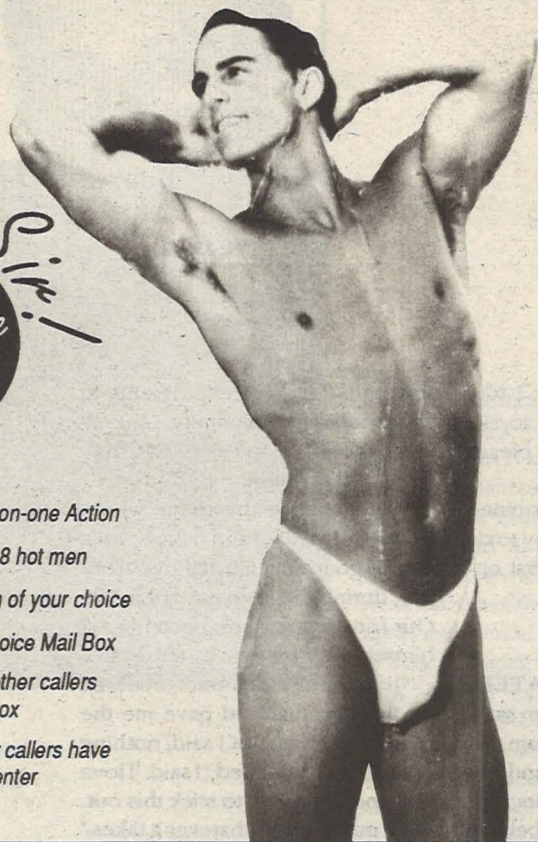
"I'm pretty content right now. Our friends come over and visit a lot. I go to thrift shops when I can. I love thrift shops. I also collect old dolls and make doll clothes. I enjoy that very much. I sleep a lot. And of course I go to doctors and to treatments a lot.

"I'M HOPING TO GO BACK TO the ballet. It's my life."

And telling of his experiences to others, Grooms hopes, will help them to better understand what living with AIDS means.

"My illness is like being an alcoholic. I decided I couldn't hide my condition from others. I wanted it known because I have to live with myself. The truth is the truth. I am very open about it and have been very accepted. Sharing my experiences has helped me. I hope it may help someone else." ✦

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 Chattanooga, TN 37411
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aids Response Knoxville (aRK)
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 Knoxville, TN 37927
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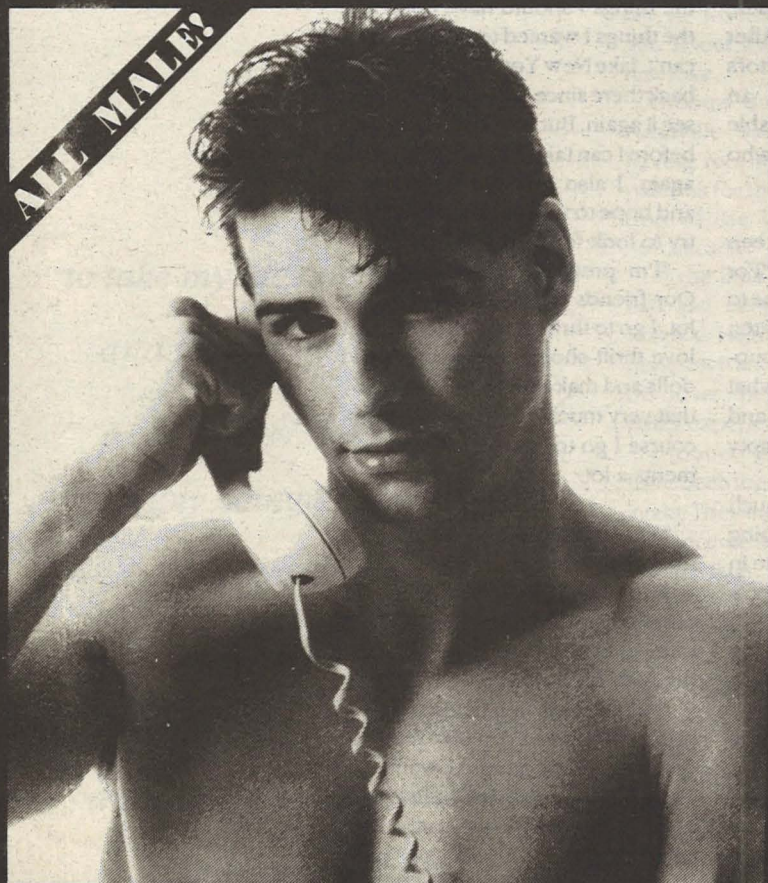
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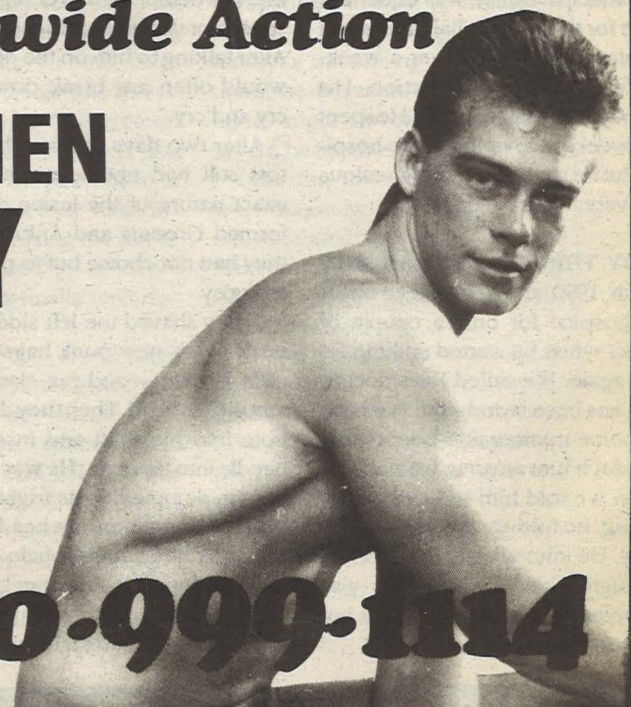
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+ Personals

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• Jeff M. of Morristown: Do you remember that wonderful time when we...oh, never mind, that wasn't you. Next time, you can be the man. Craig,

• GWM, 35, bl/bl, attr, quiet sks sim who enjoys quiet evening at home, walks in the park, animals, home-cooking & want to share these. Not lkn4 41-night stand or the bars. Positive friendship, poss relationship only. Photo/phone. Dare DRAWER 88

• Lisa baby, you keep me going! Believe me summer is looking wild. I'll meet you here, there & everywhere. — T

• Boy KY: There's no sharing now: you belong in my bed. Will you marry me? Nothing compares 2 u, baby. June 24 is just around the corner, and the 4s and 8s are stacking up. Still missing you & George.

• Denise — Your great grandmother's ring fits me as perfectly as you do. I believe in us. — 314, D

• GWM 6' br/bl 36 ints reading, movies, plays, travel, talk, sks sim friendship or relationship possibilities. All responses will be answered. Dare DRAWER 87

• Denise: U are wonderful!! Things r crazy now, but hang baby, the best is yet 2 come! u will c. — Trina

• Doreen my fox "426." Two years down the road, rocky or not, we made it. Happy anniversary, love, Lita. Thank you for maybe saying "I love you" today! Kisses baby x

• Nashville GWM 5'6", 140lbs, br/bl educ prof sks monogamous life partner not into bars, frugs, smoking. You are masc., 30-42. Send photo / ltr. Dare DRAWER 86

• Teri: Did you lose the #? I have to see u again u have my loop! Thanks 4 lots of laughs. Love that voice! — T.

• Scottie: If you'll just come back, we'll even let you play with matches in the kitchen now and then!

• GWM — 37, 5'8", 350lb, br/gr, sexually versatile, nondrinker/drugger, sks GWM, 25-45 for special friendship leading to monogamous lover relationship. No drug or drink. Photo, letter & phone. Dare DRAWER 85

• Help! GWF feminine "closet" couple seeks same 2 share discreet friendship. Enjoy art, music, dancing, sports, outdoors, travel...We're tired of hiding our love! Isn't there anyone out there in similar boat? Dare DRAWER 84

• Radar Annie — things can't get much worse. But I'd

never made it this far without your support. I truly love & appreciate you, even if I am a bitch to live with! I love you! Annie "Aircraft"

• Yo Robin — Nothing compares 2 U...Sinéad

• Congratulations, Miss Rita! We always knew you'd break their faces! Love, The Manly Men Who Love Womanly Men

• GWF, 23, attractive & intelligent. Seeking fem, petite partner who enjoys love & romance. Are u there? Dare DRAWER 83

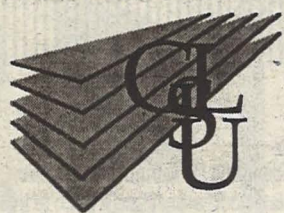
• The obsession: parts 4-7. The fantasy continues, but I don't need to explain, because you were there, too. May your dreams bring you to the place where you belong! Are you sure, honey? I am. Waiting for 8!

• Dog-face of the East: Say what you like, but you'd better like what you say, because I'll see to it that you eat your words, Miss Trash.

• GWM 25, 5'6", bl/bl, sks someone 4 poss., relationship in Nashville area. Phone, photo a must. Dare DRAWER 82.

• GWM, 5'8", 140 br/bl, 42, not into bars sks someone sincere who enjoys life, fun, travel. No drugs, to age 38, for friendship & poss. monogamous lasting relationship. Letter, photo pls. Dare DRAWER 81

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= SUBTOTAL \$.....			
x number of two-week periods			
= CLASSIFIED AD TOTAL \$.....			
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Pages

✦ Tracking star appeal

SEXUAL PERSONAE: ART AND DECADENCE FROM NEFERTITI TO EMILY DICKINSON. By Camille Paglia. London: Yale University Press, 1990. 718 pages, \$35.

reviewed by **JOE MAROHL**
Staff Writer

SEXUAL PERSONAE is a book that will challenge your conception of world history and the development of modern civilization. It is, in a way, a book of myth about the way things became the way they are, told with just-so certainty and an impressive grasp of diverse avenues of thought.

No doubt some readers will find the most provocative aspects of this book to be Paglia's "explanations" of a variety of cultural phenomena, including, but not limited to, why gay men adore Judy Garland, why cats are mysterious, why women smell like fish (she mentions only in passing, without explanation, that men smell like shit), why faggots are thin and dykes fat and why homosexual males attract to the beauty professions, culture, fashion and interior design.

At the risk of hasty generalization and begging the question sometimes, Paglia constructs plausible and entertaining theories about everyday wonders (for some of us).

Equally entertaining are some of the associations Paglia makes in the course of her argument: the Greek kouros and Elvis, Roman streetwear and blue jeans, TV talk show hosts and hermaphrodites, Lord Byron and the Beach Boys.

Paglia's world is full of astounding fulfillments of archetypes to delight the imagination (and, occasionally, to test one's credibility).

SEXUAL PERSONAE is, the author tells us, a Sadean approach to the idea of art and decadence in western culture. Its argument is difficult to summarize. By decadence is meant the feminization of male-invented culture, which is in flight from the "chthonic" forces of Mother Nature.

Masculinity is a reaction to femaleness, and femininity and decadence are reactions to masculinity. Femininity denies the darker aspects of female nature, and decadence coolly observes the darkness in sublime horror.

Decadence is a "disease of the eye, a sexual intensification of artistic voyeurism." Despite the pejorative metaphor, the author does not moralize against decadence in any of its forms: "I accept decadence as a complex historical mode...Ever since man emerged from the dominance of nature, masculinity has been the most fragile and problematic of psychic states."

Nature is female; femaleness is closely linked to the earth and natural cycles, an archetypal identification the book embraces unquestioningly and defends as true. Awe of the femaleness of nature is basic to decadence and all art. This awe is, in religious terms, pagan. Sex, cruelty and divinity are the components of a pagan understanding of the natural world.

Further, Paglia claims that Christianity

never succeeded in eradicating paganism, either in its Apollonian (idealistic) or Dionysian (sensualistic) forms. Paganism has survived, she says, "in the thousand forms of sex, art and now the modern media." The clash between paganism and the Judeo-Christian tradition was essentially a clash between spectacle and the word: "Hebrew word-worship versus pagan imagism, the great unseen versus the glorified thing."

Now, as evident in the cinema, advertising,

Most of this book concerns the development of the modern cult of personality, through various "sexual personae," archetypes the writer traces from present-day celebrities and star-appeal back to Old Kingdom Egypt.

fashion and virtually every other area of popular culture, pagan spectacle dominates traditional academic humanism.

The backlash from religious fundamentalists, feminists, English faculty and other puritans only proves the point.

Most of this book concerns the development of the modern cult of personality, through various "sexual personae," archetypes the writer traces from present-day celebrities and star-appeal back to Old Kingdom Egypt. These include the "male heroine," the "lesbian vampire" and the "beautiful boy," among others. In defining and identifying these archetypes, Paglia performs valuable service to the field of cultural criticism and, further, provides convincing support to her thesis that paganism never really died out.

Paglia makes no concessions to political correctness. On the one hand, she embraces sexual diversity, defending pornography, pederasty and sadomasochism with a fervor that even civil libertarians shrink from.

She also vehemently attacks academic feminism and defends male-centered culture, hierarchy and the American capitalist system (interestingly, because it is decadent).

Her Sadean view of nature (and femaleness in general) as voracious and cruel disturbingly endorses the darker elements of Freud's view of motherhood and the social applications of Darwinism.

✦ *Continued on page 13*

Onstage

✦ Not quite so fancy

AVANTE GARAGE: THE FANCY SHOW. Conceived and directed by Michael Bouson and Joe Correll. Musical direction by Jamey Green. Rave Revues. Backstage at the Barn. Through May 12.

reviewed by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

As much as I love the Avante Garage, and as much as I wanted to love their newest effort, THE FANCY SHOW, I'm afraid I can't. Except for some truly funny turns by the hilarious Lari White, I just couldn't find much that thrilled me this time.

Is the honeymoon over? I doubt it. Let's blame the audience, instead. Maybe it was their fault. In a show that depends largely upon audience reaction, the comics were faced with a bunch of lemmings the night I parked my "shh!" at the Garage.

The current offering, which opened last week at Backstage at the Barn, is an uneven blend of sketch comedy and improvisations that is at times inspired, at others just plain tired, lacking the zany band's trademark lunatic energy.

But concentrating on the inspired moments, the highlights of the evening were a TV commercial take-off featuring Meredith Baxter Birney (Su Hyatt), Leona Helmsley (Phil Perry) Zsa Zsa Gabor (Lari White) and Ivana Trump (Jenny Alexander) in a scene from "The Kennedy Center presents...STEEL MAGNOLIAS." It was superbly pointed and just the least bit nasty — just like some critics we know.

Another commercial for the "Save A Model" fund featured Hyatt (looking and sounding just like Archie's little girl) as Sally Struthers and Joe Correll as Ali McGraw, with Alexander and White as a runway and K-Mart model, respectively, and Michael Bouson as the Calvin Klein model who can't keep his clothes on. It was one of the funniest moments, with Bouson breaking up the audience, his fellow actors and himself along the way.

...T-GALA

✦ Continued from page 1
and Kurtz in division five.

Bill Bruce, a candidate for criminal court judge, division four, is being supported in his campaign.

Candidate Andy Shookhoff was given support for his race for juvenile court judge. His opponent, Houston Hagar, did not return a survey.

In contests for general sessions judges, T-

... 'Sexual Personae'

✦ Continued from page 12

SEXUAL PERSONAE is not an easy book to make political applications from, either to the Left or the Right.

But at the outset of a new decade, and the decline of an old millennium, Paglia's insights are innovative enough to force the reader to challenge old assumptions and to see beyond

There were two new episodes of the continuing soap opera spoof, "Chickering Heights" in which we learned the fate of Tish Hooker Flügelhorn who, when last we saw her, had been shot by her brother-in-law Leslie Chin at the wedding of his daughter Hilary to Luke Luke of Bellevue. It's much too complicated for words, but suffice it to say that Tish isn't really dead (although she's been replaced by a deadringer impostor), she's just being held hostage.

Bouson is terrific as Leslie and Alexander gives a good impression of the irrepressible, irreplaceable Martha Gabel (the original Tish).

But it's Lari White as LuLu Luke, clad in a cowgirl outfit with a black-veiled cowgirl hat, who steals the show, eating a sandwich while viewing the "body" and waxing eloquent on embalming methods. We wanted to take LuLu home with us and so will you.

The show's weaknesses don't become apparent until Act Two when, it seems, the cast runs out of steam. "The First Easter" lacks the humor and punch of last November's "The First Thanksgiving" and "Fairy Tale Theatre" is extremely weak, the evening's low point.

Even Su Hyatt's "Flamona," whom we so anxiously await each time, was not up to par. Flamona disappointed us for the first time ever. Correll's "Stories with Steve," a send-up of cable access shows, was underdeveloped and not very funny.

The finale, a retrospective of the Rave Revues' troupe's first anniversary at Backstage, included some "wickedly funny" lyrics as the cast recapped every show of the past year, skewering local critics and poking fun at themselves. But as much as I like being included in the script, it still fell a little short of the mark.

But there's still a great deal about THE FANCY SHOW to recommend it. Laugh for laugh, the Avante Garage cast prove capable of doing just about anything for a laugh. Next time, they'll probably be back on track. ✦

GALA supports: Fred Dance, division one; William Faimon, division three; Michael Mondelli, division four; and Bill Higgins, division seven.

Public defender candidate Karl Dean is also being supported in his race.

"One of the greatest powers we've got is the polling booth," McCluskey said.

"Whether you're in the closet or out of the closet, the polling booth is private." ✦

the old polarities which have directed social and political thinking in the last century.

Whatever else can be said about them (and I predict they will be hotly debated), Paglia's ideas are not uninteresting.

In fact, Paglia may well turn out to be the most outrageous and fun culture critic since Marshall McLuhan. ✦

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✦ Speaking out

Dear Dare:

Some members of the Metropolitan Community Church/Nashville felt it necessary to "hit the streets" to protest their exclusion in the local church. This protest took place during the installation service of MCC's newly called pastor, Rodney Bragg, which were held at St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Nashville last Sunday.

As I viewed it from the "streets," many more lesbians and gay men read our placards on that busy corner than were marching around the inside of the church building.

Personally, I have been supportive of MCC/Nashville financially and with my time and abilities. I simply feel that it is time the 20-year-old "kid" church practices what it preaches. Troy Perry began this Universal Church 20 years ago to offer acceptance, support and a place to worship to all peoples, regardless of their personal religious, social or political beliefs. It seems now many in MCC/N have simply forgotten we are here as a church to serve all our community, not to be served. I feel our church's historical past is one of unlimited, total inclusiveness not gained by advantage, but by equalization. It's one thing to praise and pray for the church's founders and leaders and another thing to practice the full implications of our professions, verbally and otherwise.

I still feel there is much support and agreement for moderation and tolerance in MCC, but by the glares, stares and shunning by the pastor and leadership, I am fully convinced that only God can accomplish this task.

Much of the controversy centers around the church's official stance concerning certain words used in its services which may or may not involve feminine or masculine meanings — referred to as "inclusive language." Much of our protest centered around the fact that inclusiveness encompasses not only all thought and use of words, but also should include all freedoms awarded all people's right to be themselves.

We are calling for reformation to a much-needed institution in our community, for if we are to accomplish our goals, we must reach out to all peoples in addition to white, middle class, beautiful, talented liberals. I think at times we may fall prey to acting like we have been acted upon and change roles to the extent we persecute, shun, ignore and practice intolerance toward others, many of whom are part of this family. Over the past few years, MCC has withdrawn from the community and sought organizational excellence and neglected the living organism, its people and mission.

A dwindling membership and a less-than-enough weekly financial budget are glaring feedback of the pending possibility of failure of a truly great opportunity to love and serve our community and its causes.

I used to have a grammar school ruler that said, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." I think simply that is what this is all about.

JACK D. GREGORY
Nashville

Dare

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN & GAY NEWSWEEKLY

"I am the Love that dare not speak its name."

— Lord Alfred Douglas, "The Two Loves," 1892

April 27, 1990 ✦ Volume 3, Number 17

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✦ Questions and (maybe) answers

by **CARLTON CORNETT**
Contributing Writer

Therapists are often asked many different questions, either in the consulting room or in social atmospheres. Among the most prevalent deal with the basis of sexual orientation and the coming-out process.

Why am I a homosexual?

The question is important because it suggests that the person asking it is attempting to understand her/himself as a fully sexual being, often oppressed for that sexuality. Generally, underlying this question is the attempt to find a reason for all the oppression. On a level probably out of our awareness, related questions with which we are struggling, like "Does that make me different or bad or sick?", etc., also find expression in this question. "Why am I..." is a good question that often begins the process of challenging internalized homophobia.

There are a number of competing theories as to why some people are heterosexual and some homosexual. The evidence is mounting that there is a strong biological component, at least predisposition, toward homosexuality or heterosexuality.

Recently, people like Richard Isay, an openly gay psychologist (a rare entity) have also proposed that familial reactions may reinforce that predisposition, especially as the child's same sex parent subtly rejects the developing child for her/his emotional and social differences from other children of her/his sex.

The idea of a predisposition toward one sexual orientation or the other also leaves room for variations in sexual fantasy and behavior, such as an instance of heterosexual attraction in a lesbian/gay person or vice versa. Perhaps we are born with a blueprint directing us to the sex that will be the primary object of our erotic love. This blueprint, however, can be shaped, refined and changed in many ways by many people throughout life.

Is it important to come out to parents?

That's a tricky question for two reasons.

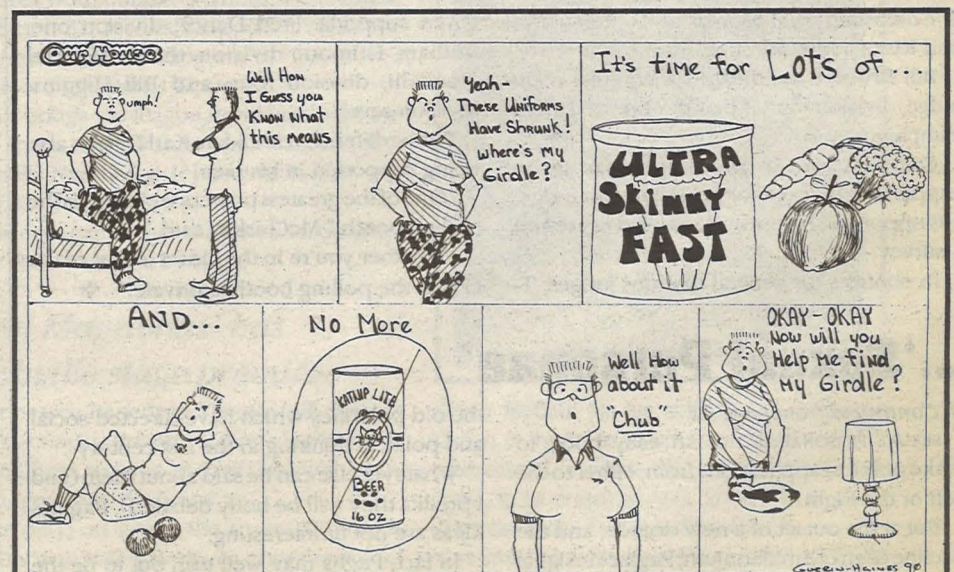
First, coming out always implies risk. We are the only ones who know them well enough to predict how our parents might react to this revelation. They may disown or abandon us. They may also react in a surprisingly supportive and accepting way. So, any answer to this question involves asking other questions: What is the risk? Is it a risk you want to take? It's interesting how many lesbians and gay men choose to come out at the most vulnerable times in their lives, when rejection will feel the most devastating.

Coming out to our parents can potentially be the most growing thing we ever do. In the heterosexual world, a woman or man can assert her/his adulthood through various rituals and events. These rituals and events mark the passage from childhood to the world of fully sexual adult. Lesbians and gay men have an event which is comparable to marriage as an assertion of full, sexual adulthood in the act of coming out.

Coming out breaks through two barriers of parental denial: first, that the daughter/son in question is "just like everybody else and hasn't bloomed yet" and most importantly that she or he is still a little girl or boy, devoid of sexual needs, fantasies. All parents must eventually face this latter realization to develop an adult relationship with a grown child. Probably, there is as much rejection for this realization as for the revelation that a daughter or son is lesbian or gay. Some parents deal well with children; however, when children grow up and assert their sexuality in any way, the threat to the parental role can summon massive defensiveness and resistance.

Coming out to parents can be a valuable way to achieve a new level of intimacy with them and an important step in solidifying an identity as an adult. It is not without risk and is best made with an understanding of where one is in life. Put simply, the best time to come out is when it feels right. ✦

Editor's note: Carlton Cornett is a clinical social worker in private practice, providing individual, group and family psychotherapy for adult and adolescent patients.



— DARE CARTOON BY LESLIE GUERIN-HAINES

Loose Lips

+ All about same-sex marriages

"CAGNEY AND LACEY star Sharon Gless became the object of a fan's suicidal lesbian love crush during a four-year ordeal which came to a terrifying climax when the woman broke into the star's home with an assault rifle.

"In a tension-filled seven-hour stand-off, distraught Joni Leigh Penn, 30, demanded that Sharon come to the house, saying she was going to kill herself with a .22-caliber semiautomatic rifle in front of the actress. The weapon's clip contained 13 bullets."

— From an account in the supermarket tabloid, *THE STAR*.

"If the Constitution were written in stone, then 'separate but equal' would still be the state of affairs and women would not be able to own property in their own name or vote.

"The issue of gay marriage concerns more than just the question of offspring, but also encompasses questions of insurance benefits, visitation rights in hospitals, will and estates, income tax benefits, and every other aspect of life in society."

— Andrew S. Dunn of Syracuse, N.Y., writing to the "Letters" section of the *AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION JOURNAL*.

"The bottom line, however, is that all heterosexuals are given the choice to legally marry. Gays and lesbians merely wish to be treated equally. As members of the bar, we have a duty to educate the public and push for laws that promote equality."

— David M. Eichman of Los Angeles, writing to the *ABA JOURNAL*.

"I do not pretend to know the formula for raising psychologically, emotionally and educationally balanced children. However, I suspect that having caring and stable parents — whatever their gender or sexual orientation — provides a good start."

— Eugene G. Bruno of Chicago, in the *ABA JOURNAL*.

"Marriage is a legal recognition of a loving relationship by two people that grants certain legal rights and responsibilities. It is time we permitted gay and lesbian couples the same opportunity to solemnize their unions that straight couples take for granted."

— from Glenn Gordon of New York, N.Y.

"Let's call a spade a spade. Homosexuality is a sinful lifestyle and the law should never crown it with any form of legitimization.

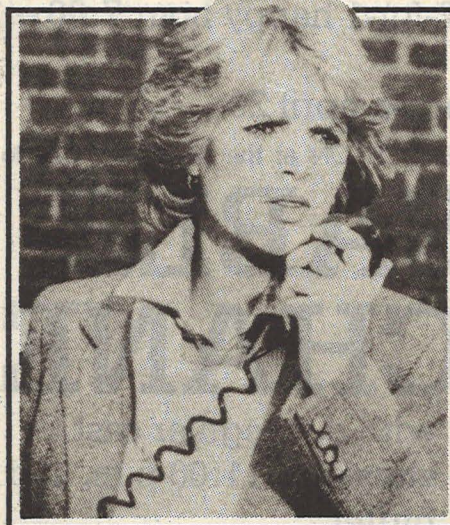
"If homosexuality is not a moral wrong, but merely a sexual preference, what about bestiality and incest? Many of the ills of this society are attributable to an ever-increasing tendency to deny the difference between right and wrong, good and evil. Debates like this one only further this demise."

— Peter A. Cotorceanu of Williamsburg, Va. *Who is this man and why is he being so nasty? Any ideas?*

"The societal assumptions that homosexuality was sick and/or immoral created an emotional, sensual and spiritual prison..."

— Bryant Welch of the *American Psychologi-*

cal Association's Practice Directorate, in THE MONITOR, the APA's national newspaper.



Sharon Gless — the CAGNEY AND LACEY star is the object of a near-fatal attraction — DARE FILE PHOTO

"Use of the term 'sexual preference' may derive from good intentions, but it is not accurate. Worse, it encourages the age-old bigotry that plagues us gays, and which we must always challenge. Straight people's perception that we are gay by preference plays into that infamous religio/cultural attitude that says, 'Let 'em change back like they're supposed to be, since they have a choice.'

"We gays were not offered the opportunity to choose our sexuality, any more than heterosexuals were given the choice to be male or female. Sexual orientation is involuntary — like height, skin color or number of elbows."

— William R. Steward of San Francisco, writing in *CIVIL LIBERTIES, the ACLU newspaper*.

"Do you think you'd be a good judge for the Miss America Pageant?"

"No, because they all look like drag queens to me. Generally, their sense of humor isn't one of their main priorities."

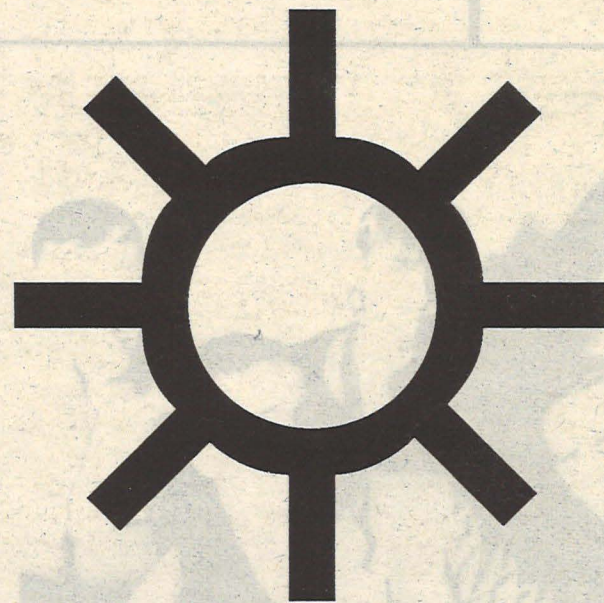
— Filmmaker John Waters in *us magazine*.

"Still, the most suspicious person in the case is Brennan himself. A bluff, towering Irish-American, this cop's cop is a self-appointed king of the streets, a racist and 'fag killer' who leers with pleasure when he talks of beating the crap out of some poor black or Hispanic 'animal.'"

— From an *ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY* story about the character played by actor Nick Nolte in his new movie, *Q & A*.

"Mike Royko's April 3 column in *THE TENNESSEAN* was a vicious attack on all gay people. It will serve well to create the climate of hate and fear that is used to justify the epidemic of violence and harassment that is the daily diet of so many of us."

— Gerry Scoppetuolo, in a letter to *THE TENNESSEAN*.



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