Nashville Group to Attack Porn, Adult Bookstores

By JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

An effort to rid Nashville of "illegal pornographic materials" is under way as members of the recently formed National Coalition Against Pornography (NCAP) prepare to do battle "to make the city a better place to live," according to Diana Maas, one of the group's leaders.

Maas said the organization, formed by a coalition of Christian fundamentalist-oriented groups, will attempt to guarantee enforcement of state and local laws against selling obscene materials.

The Nashville group is patterned after the National Coalition Against Pornography, formed by the Rev. Jerry Kirk of Cincinnati in response to the Meese Report on pornography. That report, issued last year by an 11-member group empaneled by then-U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, prepared an in-depth study of pornography in this country.

"The Meese Commission's report really helped to open our eyes to the problem. What is encouraging about the report is that it was telling us that pornography is illegal," Maas said, explaining that her involvement came as a result of the birth of her third child.

"When my third child was about to be born, I realized how concerned I was about living in a city as large as Nashville. When we realized just how much pornography is available in Nashville, my husband and I considered moving to a smaller town to raise our children," Maas said. "But we decided to stay here and fight."

Maas, along with a David Lipscomb University student, first began to talk about organizing an anti-pornography push some six months ago after considering the Meese Commission report. She said that since then their efforts have attracted "different types of people -- people involved in business, civic leaders, elected officials and pastors from several different denominations."

"Over the years, I think the American public has adjusted to more extreme sexual acts. We see more and more sex on television, sex is used to sell things in advertisements," she said. "We think viewing a film or looking at a picture of someone engaged in sex is okay. But it's not."

Maas rejected the notion that NCAP's efforts are a threat to the freedom of speech as prescribed by the U.S. Constitution.

"Many people think that by going after illegal pornography that we are against freedom of speech. That's not true. There are laws on the books which make pornography illegal. We see ourselves as an organization to encourage law enforcement authorities to follow the law," Maas said.

She said NCAP is still planning efforts for the coming months and would not rule out actions directed at local adult bookstores.

"We're looking at stopping the distribution of illegal pornography," Maas said. "And if that means the closing of a business that is involved in selling pornography, then that's what we will do."
D.C. Homos Chide Mayor

From STAFF REPORTS
Gay and lesbian activists in Washington, D.C., last week lambasted Mayor Marion Barry for his failure to speak out against the controversial Armstrong amendment, an attempt by congress to weaken the District's gay rights law.

The incident marked the first time since the Memphis native was elected mayor of Washington that gay and lesbian leaders have publicly criticized his handling of pertinent issues.

Some 50 representatives of local gay and lesbian rights groups, as well as AIDS-related groups, attended the meeting held at Washington's Church of the Pilgrims at Barry's invitation. Four senior members of Barry's staff, who are homosexual, also attended the meeting.

Gay and lesbian leaders admonished Barry for refusing to speak out against the amendment or to challenge its constitutionality.
Barry told those assembled he felt he could best be effective by working behind the scenes to devise a strategy to stop the Armstrong amendment.

The amendment, named for its author, Sen. William Armstrong (R-Colo.) threatens to freeze the District's entire operating budget on Dec. 31 unless steps are taken to amend the city's Human Rights Act to allow religious educational institutions to discriminate against gay men and lesbians.

Seven Openly Gay/Lesbian Candidates Win

From STAFF REPORTS
Seven openly gay/gay candidates for federal, state and local offices were victorious.

"We some some this election and we lost some," said Robert Bray of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF). "We may go into Congress with more supporters of AIDS legislation and gay/lesbian civil rights bills than ever before. That's the silver lining to this whole thing.

Openly gay Massachusetts congressmen Barney Frank and Gerry Studds were both returned to the House of Representatives. Frank, in his first race since revealing his homosexuality, was reelected by a sizable margin. Studds won his third reelection try since coming out in 1983.

In Washington state, openly gay state senate candidate Calvin Anderson was elected. He had earlier been appointed to fill an unexpired term in the state senate.

Minnesota state representative Karen Clark was elected to her fifth term in office. The lesbian activist vowed to continue her efforts to pass a hate crimes bill and to increase statewide civil rights protection to cover discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt, who replaced the late Harvey Milk on the County Board of Supervisors in 1979, was reelected and by virtue of that fact will serve a four-year term on the state senate.

Tim Wolfred, a gay member of San Francisco's Community College Board, won reelection to his seat.

Lesbian activist Judy Abdo captured one of four open seats on the Santa Monica City Council.

Whoopi: Yes, She Has

From STAFF REPORTS
Is she or isn't she? Probably not even her hairdresser knows for sure.

But Whoopi Goldberg maintains that people continually ask her whether she is a lesbian. Goldberg, who was nominated for a Best Actress Oscar for her film debut as Miss Celie in the movie version of Alice Walker's The Color Purple, said the film's lesbian overtones probably serve as the source for the questions.

In an interview in the Nov. 22 issue of the Advocate, a national magazine for gay men, Goldberg said her decision to serve as one of the keynote speakers at last year's National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights also prompted questions.

"I say, Normally, this would be none of your business; however, I will answer you," Goldberg told the Advocate. "It's possible. I'm not practicing at the moment, but I will not say it will never happen or it hasn't happened in my past."

Openly Gay Doctor Appointed Head of NIH Study

From STAFF REPORTS
Openly gay physician Lawrence Deyton has been named to head a new National Institutes of Health program that will enable a greater number of people with AIDS to receive access to experimental drug treatments through local physicians.

The announcement last week by NIH officials Dr. Anthony Fauci was greeted with praise from lesbian and gay leaders, as well as leaders within the AIDS services community.

Deyton, a resident of Washington, D.C., was one of the founders of that city's Whitman-Walker Clinic, and has worked since 1987 on the staff of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). In that position, he monitors AIDS patients receiving experimental treatments.

The Whitman-Walker Clinic, established in 1973 as a gay men's venereal disease treatment center, is now one of the main providers of AIDS-related services in the District of Columbia.

Deyton will coordinate the Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS, and serve as assistant director for community research.
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**DARE**

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**...anti-porn group**

continued from page 1
in the distribution of illegal pornography, then so be it.”

Shepherd said NCAP members will lobby Metro Council members as well as state legislators and law enforcement officials to make enforcement of pornography laws “a priority.” He said a community awareness campaign is planned for spring, 1989, to highlight the role pornography has played locally.

NCAP members, at a breakfast meeting Thursday at the Capitol Club, heard Hugh McClellan outline efforts by a Chattanooga group to combat pornography there.

The Chattanooga group was instrumental in the closing down of adult bookstores and film arcades in that city. Sources there report that after the group was successful in closing those businesses, they turned their attentions to attempted closings of the city’s gay bars.

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**...Louisville suicide**

continued from page 1

The FBI got the search warrant after the youths, ages 13 and 14, told their parents about their alleged sexual contacts with Wheeler, after the boys were unable to account for their whereabouts Friday, Nov. 18.

Wheeler allegedly picked up the boys that Saturday after they spent the night with him in Brownsburg, which is just northwest of Indianapolis. He drove them back the following Saturday after they spent the night with him in Louisville, police reported. One of the boys, who has relatives in Louisville, is believed to have met the doctor last summer and the two had maintained contact since then.

Wheeler, a radiologist at Louisville’s Jewish Hospital for several years, was described by one of his colleagues as a bachelor who lived alone.

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**Arts Notes**

From STAFF REPORTS

**NOTED ACTOR HAL HOLBROOK** brings his critically-acclaimed production of “Mark Twain Tonight” to the Tennessee Performing Arts Center’s Jackson Hall Saturday, Dec. 10, for an 8 p.m. performance.

Tickets to the performance are $11, $15.50 and $18.50 and may be purchased at any Ticketmaster location or charged by calling 741-2787.

**JOHN BAEDER’S** wryly probing glimpses of Nashville and Carol Sarkisian’s wildly bearded boots and bears are featured at Zimmerman-Saturn Gallery throughout the month of December.

The gallery’s final show of the 1988 year — including the first exhibition of “Nashville Snaps,” a collection of Type “C” Print photographs by Baeder, and a display of Sarkisian’s fancifully bejeweled creatures and creations — opens with a reception from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3. The show will continue at the gallery through Jan. 3, 1989.

Zimmerman-Saturn Gallery is located at 131 Second Avenue, North. The gallery is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Further information on the Baeder-Sarkisian show, as well as upcoming exhibitions, is available by calling the gallery at (615) 254-8250.

**TENNESSEE REPERTORY THEATRE** will deck the halls of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center’s Polk Theatre this holiday season with Christmas Memories, an original family-oriented presentation of music and merriment Dec. 7-11.

Christmas Memories opens in Polk Theatre Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 8 p.m., with subsequent performances on Thursday and Friday evenings at 8 p.m. and a Sunday night performance at 7 p.m. The show’s only matinee is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2:30 p.m. The show will not be presented on Saturday, Dec. 10.

Tickets are $5, $7.50, $8, $10, $12.50 and $15 and can be purchased over the phone by calling 320-7172. Tickets are also available at all Centratik and Ticketmaster outlets and at the TRT Box Office in the Polk Theatre lobby prior to each performance.
PREVIEWS:
What's Hot, And What's About to Be

Compiled by SHERRE DRYDEN
Book Editor
Here's a list of new books and books scheduled for publication in the next few months that look like they ought to be interesting to gay men and lesbians.

First published in 1981, Crush is the story of two 17-year-old girls who fall in love at an exclusive boarding school. Jinx, quiet and reserved, develops a crush on the beautiful and popular Lexie. Neither quite knows whether to be thrilled or appalled by their feelings for each other.


In Illness as Metaphor, Sontag argued that the myths and metaphors surrounding disease can kill by instilling shame and guilt in the sick, thus delaying them from seeking treatment. Here she contends that metaphors of plague, the wrath of God and African scourge are at work in the case of AIDS, causing patients to be stigmatized while leading to the spread of misinformation and panic.

Radical Records: Thirty Years of Lesbian and Gay History. Edited by Bob Cant and Susan Hemmings. Routledge. By using personal accounts from individuals involved, Radical Records chronicles the contributions made by lesbians and gay men in shaping leftist and civil libertarian movements in Great Britain. While the names of the activists may not be so familiar to us in the United States, their messages about the courage needed to stand up, speak out and fight for radical change cross the boundaries of nations and serve as an inspirational example.

Men (Testimonies) and women (Revelations) tell how they came out to themselves, family and friends.

Longing. Paul Reed. Celestial Arts. Reed (Facing It) writes of San Francisco's gay community in the early 1980's - a time when it was becoming apparent that AIDS would change things forever. The young narrator, moved to fulfill his youthful dreams, leaves his small town home to explore San Francisco. Enchanted and hopeful, he pursues love and friendship, thrilled to be living his dreams at last. But those dreams are shattered, and he must confront the deeper meanings of his longing.

Diamonds are a Dykes' Best Friend: Reflections, Reminiscences, and Reports from the Field on the Lesbian National Pastime. Yvonne Zipper. Firebrand.

Greenberg provides a scholarly cross-cultural and historical account of the social organization of homosexuality; the ways it is perceived and responded to by society. His comparative approach continued on next page.

REVIEWS:
Dead Heat

By SHERRE DRYDEN
Book Editor
Willyce Kim's characters are definitely off-beat.

There's Dancer Dawkins, suffering from a broken heart after being dumped by her lover Jessica, who broke the news one morning:

"Dancer," Jessica began, "that was a terrible breakfast. My omelet was delicious. And the buckwheat pancakes were splendid. And Dancer, I'm having an affair with Jule Goodard and I want to live with her."

Dancer heads west, to California, in search of her friend Will Gutherie, the California Kid.

The Kid is in the throes of lust over Janes Philips Joyce. The Kid is her first woman-in-real-life Janes is the girlfriend of gangster Vinny "The Skull" LaRoca. When Janes' uncle, Canadian Dave, retired to his grapefruit ranch in Arizona he left Vinny two things: his "book" and Janes.

Vinny has a lot of money and his reputation riding on a big stakes horserace; the only horse likely to beat his is Flash and Dance, ridden by Cody Roberts. Cody has just come to California from Nebraska, trying to forget a bad racing accident, a terrifying nightmare and Frankie Tucker, her trainer's daughter.

Kim introduces these strands - Dancer's struggle to come to terms with Jessica's infidelity, the Kid's budding and slightly perverse romance with Janes, Cody's psychic distress and Vinny's desperate need to have a winner - individually, then slowly combined on page 8.

Longing

By STUART BIVIN
Editor
This is one of those thin, elegant novels that I usually detest for their pretentiousness and self-conscious elegance. The back cover promised dreary self-absorption: "Here I stood alone, waiting at a summit from which I saw the ocean and towers of concrete, and I swallowed in a sudden sensation of harmony..." You get the idea.

To be perfectly honest, I picked it up because I expected a real piece of pseudo-intellectual fluff that I could denounce roundly.

Don't judge a book by its cover.
Paul Reed really is the wonderful storyteller that his blurb promises. This is one of the best short novels I've read since Edmund White's equally-disturbing Forgetting Elena. Like White, Reed manages to put his thumb on the pulse of what it's really like to be homosexual. And like White, he sometimes presses hard enough on the wrist to make you wince as he takes that pulse.

Longing follows a young man, a boy, really, coming out and coming to terms in early-80s San Francisco (even the premise sounds really awful - how many times has this been done badly, like an assignment from someone's therapist?). Our hero has a brain, a heart and even a conscience, all of which get a thorough workout.

This is a thought-provoking, engrossing story told precisely and well. A very pleasant surprise.
**PREVIEWS:**

What's Hot, and What's About to Be

continued from previous page


Sixteen short stories by gay male writers from the United States and Canada.


Just about everyone in this novel has difficulties with "girls" in one form or another. There is Patrick Standish, who until recently a boys' Latin teacher and now an editor at Hammond & Sutcliffe. There is his boss, Giles, who can make one bottle of vodka do for brunch for 23 and offer up his wife to Patrick without batting an eye. There are Patrick's gay neighbors Stevie and Eric, and Tim, who wonders if he is gay. Into this little community move the Porter-Kings - he an impossible snob and she the kind of "girl" who causes difficulties.


Diana Trilling (Harper's magazine) called Ackerley's autobiography My Father and Myself the "most directly personal report of what it is like to be a homosexual...has yet been published." Out of print for years, Ackerley's novel We Think the World of You is being reissued to coincide with the release of a film version starring Alan Bates. It is the story of Frank, a cultivated middle-aged civil servant who becomes involved with a working-class family. His interest centers on Johnny, an attractive but aimless young man who has a devious wife, an engaging mother - and a magnificent dog, Evie. When Johnny is sentenced to 12 months in prison, Evie, who has a character all her own, becomes more and more important to Frank - and to the novel's surprising conclusion.

Unnatural Quotations. Leigh Rutledge. Boston: Alyson Publications. Rutledge, author of The Gay Book of Lists, has compiled more than 600 homophobic (and homophobic) quotations from historical and contemporary figures - poets, philosophers, government officials and entertainers. Topics include growing up gay, passion, prejudice and AIDS.


The story of Daniel Curzon, a writer who decided at age 40 to write about the three men who had been his lovers. We first meet Curzon in 1975 at the height of the Gay Liberation Movement in San Francisco, where he describes with "grubby realism" his relationship with Jer. He moves next to a French lover's chateau, where he entertains readers using a comedy-of-manners style. Finally, we find him on a primitive island, where, borrowing the language of the Arabian Nights, he recounts having fallen in love with "Ja, the flower of an
and Schuster.

Kenneth Lewes discusses how Freud's original psychoanalytic ideals of understanding and compassion have often been betrayed by clinicians and theorists behaving less like healers than like moralistic upholders of the status quo. Psychoanalysis slowly changed from a humane discipline into an insular and calcified orthodoxy; by the time of the Kinsey Report, psychoanalysis had little interest in other disciplines' fresh attempts to understand human sexuality, including homosexuality. Lewes chronicles the efforts within psychoanalysis to define homosexuality as a disease, as well as the changes in the larger society that eventually led to the American Psychiatric Association's decision to delete homosexuality from its list of psychiatric disorders.


Mohr believes that lesbian and gay Americans have consistently and systematically been denied their basic constitutional and civil rights. "Gay justice does not exist and does not nearly exist," Mohr writes. "The nation's industrial means for establishing justice - the courts - have completely failed in their duty when it has come to the plight of gays. Indeed, they have now become a major part of the mechanisms of gay oppression." Mohr examines the oppression of gay men and lesbians in America today, offers programs for change and in his concluding chapter rallies readers to political action.


This is the dark story of a man who goes home to rural Kentucky for a vacation but finds his return to the family anything but reflective. Dean is gay and newly sober, and has an unspecified job in New Orleans. Neither he, his alcoholic brother nor his mother, who drinks to deal with her husband's suicide, are given a surname. Dean is drawn into a drug deal at the behest of his brother; he seduces a young man and is bashed about for his homosexuality.

Eighth-sixed. January

This first novel by a New York City mathematician records the changes in gay life continued on next page.
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PREVIEWS:

What's Hot, and What's About to Be

continued from previous page
styles precipitated by AIDS between 1980 and 1986. Diary-like monthly reports describe the narrator's romantic and sexual experiences and his attempts to come to terms with the specter of death in his life.

New York: Plume Fiction.

George Stambolian's second anthology of gay fiction, representing 18 writers, including Gary Glickman ("Magic"), Joseph Pintauro ("Jungle Dove") and Allan Gurganus ("Adult Art"). AIDS and New York's gay community are central to many stories, including "Solidarity," a previously unpublished work by Albert Innaurato, and Christopher Davis's "The Boys in the Bars."


Dale McNab, a lesbian-feminist academic who is mired in romantic and professional crises, finds escape by visiting her 90-year-old grandmother, Rose, on the pretext of helping her organize her papers and diaries. As Dale looks through the journals, she comes upon photos and correspondence with Prosperine Munkers, Rose's closest childhood friend. Prosperine's papers reveal a singular woman who was a lesbian, radical and writer. Dale's goal shifts to writing a book on Prosperine, but she struggles with Rose's puritan ethics over access to the papers.


Leavitt's second novel follows the Cooper family - Louise, whose long battle (and eventual death) with lymphatic cancer is the center of the novel, her husband Nat, daughter April and son Danny. Nat seeks solace from his mistress for his lost dreams. April tries to reconcile her position as a prominent feminist with her bisexuality. Danny, a lawyer, lives in New Jersey - with his long-time lover Walt. Leavitt focuses primarily on Danny, how his family connections affect his relationship with Walt, but all of the characters are given complete, affectionate attention.

The first biography of landscape painter and limerick writer Edward Lear to be published in nearly 20 years. Chitty begins with the six happiest weeks of Lear's life, the spring of 1849 when he and his great love Frank Lushington traveled together, then goes backward to his unhappy childhood, his years in Italy and Greece, his subsequent life on the Riviera.

Trash. Dorothy Allison. Firebrand.

Allison's 14 stories concern being "a cross-eyed working-class lesbian, addicted to violence, language and hope," rebelling against her "poor white trash" South Carolina roots.


Sure to be controversial in its portrayal of sadomasochism, Califia's collection of erotic fiction explores graphic lesbian sexual fantasy. Califia argues that a sexual politics which prevents women from choosing S&M does little more than define consent as "mature," "socially acceptable" and "politically correct."

Review:

Willye Kim's Dead Heat

continued from page 5
brings them together through a chain of events that is wildly improbable and often wildly funny.

Kim's writing is sparse and tough, with almost no description and language that has echoes of hardboiled detective novels. Sentences are simple, short and choppy, full of action and dialog.

She breaks events down into brief (usually no more than a page) scenes that concentrate on one or two of the characters. If one scene features Dancer, the next will cut to Vinny or Janes and the Kid. The progress of the plot is chronological, but the scenes take place in parallel time, gradually converging until all of the characters meet for the cliff-hanger ending.

These techniques yield a novel that, despite providing little information about what people or places look like, is oddly cinematic.

The characters, too, are tough and street-wise. They drink to drown their troubles, curse, bet on horses, carry guns. You know without being told that the women wear leather jackets and tight black jeans (or spike heels and lacy black slips).

But Kim doesn't seem to intend that we take all of this toughness literally. For one thing, the wisest and most together character in Dead Heat is a talking (and mind reading) dog.

Killer Shep is the Kid's arthritic German shepherd. She shyle watches over the humans, helping solve their problems and providing companionship. When Dancer drinks herself into oblivion, Killer Shep stands guard. When the women are mired in their various crises, Killer Shep gives advice.

Killer Shep talks to all of the women; her ability to converse is never questioned. Kim's seemingly serious use of an obviously ridiculous situation brings into question how serious she is about everything else.

It seems clear that Kim is having fun taking some stereotypical lesbian attitudes down a notch, satirizing a few lesbian sacred cows:

"I'm only treating you to my astute analysis of the situation," Killer Shep says. "You are, after all, my flock."

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"I'm only treating you to my astute analysis of the situation," Killer Shep says. "You are, after all, my flock."
Robyn and Terry Kevlin tell a funny story about shopping at a Nashville-area Walgreens. It seems that when the two approached the counter to pay for their purchases, the clerk appeared somewhat on edge. Robyn took out her checkbook to pay the young man, while Terry examined the various and sundry point-of-purchase impulse items displayed so prominently in the store.

As Robyn handed the clerk her check, he rather nervously asked if she had appeared on television earlier in the week, in a report on same-sex couples. "Yeah, that was us," she replied, not really knowing what to expect next. Terry, Robyn's partner and lover for the past three and a half years, turned her attention away from the Ray-O-Vac batteries and tubes of Chap Stick, expecting to be confronted by yet another homophobic attack.

"I thought that was you. You were really great. I can't wait to go home and tell everybody I actually met you," the young man gushed.

"We couldn't believe it!" Terry remembers.

The Kevlins' chance encounter with the young man behind the counter at a local Walgreens's only seemed to underscore the reaction of family, friends and co-workers to the pair's appearances on two Nashville television stations.

Coming just after National Coming Out Day festivities in the state's capital city, the television reports on the Kevlins attempted to give the viewing public a more balanced, even-handed look at same-sex couples. In the lesbian and gay community, couples are often isolated from not only other segments of society in general, but also from other members of the lesbian and gay culture. As a result, lesbian and gay couples are mapping out new types of relationships — relationships without role models. Lesbian and gay couples, unlike male/female couples, cannot look to their parents for a design for living.

Because of the difference in the dynamics of the types of relationships, same-sex couples must forge new territories as they seek to define their "pairing" in new and unique terms. Same-sex couples may find it harder to gain acceptance from their peers. Heterosexual couples are, instead, a fact of life — look at June and Ward Cleaver or Lucy and Ricky Ricardo.

Due to the fact that networking for lesbians and gay men is sometimes so difficult in a predominantly heterosexual society, same-sex couples may discover that fact is compounded by virtue of the fact that they are part of a couple.

Many of the difficulties which plague lesbian and gay couples may center on the rather obvious differences — money, education, employment, age — that can cause countless upheavals.

A difference as simple as how to refer to each other can lead to a knock-down, drag-out fight. Lover, partner, friend, roommate, husband, wife, squeeze, better half, significant other. What do you call that other person who keeps you awake by reading in bed until all hours? It's not as easy as it may seem.

Views

Pornography and Censorship

A NEW GROUP has formed in Nashville, the Nashville Coalition Against Pornography (NCAP), whose stated purpose is to eliminate illegal pornography, which the group says is anything that depicts ultimate sex acts: intercourse, sodomy, cunnilingus or fellatio.

While they point to the relationship between pornography and violence, they do their own cause injustice by doing so cynically. The group has not made any mention of attempting to work against glorification of violence. If NCAP is truly sincere about reducing violence, especially sexual violence, they would also be aiming their efforts at network television and movie glorification of violence.

But that is not what they are really doing.

Box 40422

A Republican Responds

Dear Dare:

I am deeply saddened and distressed by your recent editorial, "Shame," in the November 11-17 issue of Dare.

I am from a family that has always embraced gay women and men. My first memories include dinner parties (in the 60s) where gay and lesbian couples were welcomed and encouraged to be who they were. My first "gourmet" dinner was prepared by a lesbian woman who lived in the guest room of our home rent free because her parents would not accept her. My mother, Peggy Way, was the first recipient of the Mattachine Society of Chicago for her efforts (not at all stylish at the time).

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To me, your editorial sounded like you have somehow missed the past eight years. Gay and lesbian rights have not suffered at all under the Reagans. In fact, if we can be objective, never before has a First Family been as open towards gays. Rock Hudson and Way Bandy, both Reagan intimates, died of AIDS and were mourned by the First Family. You must realize that, after years in Hollywood, the Reagans have been exposed to and dealt with gay men since before I was born. And I'm sure that their attitude has been one of love and concern. Your editorial suggesting that George Bush will be any different is divisive and unwelcome.

I am frankly bewildered by the tone of the editorial which states that gays voted for Bush/Quayle "preferred the coddling of a Republican administration whose main concern will be those of the wealthy." In the future, please remember that the concerns of the gay community are the concerns of all: to many gays and lesbians, Tuesday, November 8, 1988 was terrific.

STEVEN W. WAY

Nashville

Curtains

Peter Pan: Holiday at Playhouse

By STUART BIVIN

I had a terrible secret crush on this guy I went to high school with. A group of us went to see the community-theater production of Peter Pan. Mr. Wonderful promptly dubbed me "Tinkerbell." So much for that.

Of course, the folks at Playhouse on the Square didn't know about my adolescent trauma when they decided to stage Peter Pan for the holidays. They've done a pretty fair job with a difficult proposition: in this age of supercomputer-generated movie special effects, how do you hold the interest of an audience with a live performance of fantasy? It's obvious that you can't do it with electronic gimmickry, unless you're Michael Jackson, or have his money. And, besides, that would defeat the purpose of live theatre. The willingness of disbelievers has to be that -- willing. And that requires some kind of faith in the actors, faith that has to be earned.

First of all, Rebecca Klinger (or Klinger -- the program lists her both ways) was a pretty good Peter Pan. I saw the X cast's version, so I didn't see Bates Brooks, who originated the role in the show's Memphis premier. Brooks did pop in as Tiger Lily, and did a good job with a fairly confining role. The two swap roles in the Y cast show.

The rest of the X cast was okay. Jutta Vivian Dickelacker played Wendy very well. She was quite convincing as the plucky sister.

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Peter Colburn as Captain Hook was faboo. He was the single most believable actor. His Hook was the consummate bully: alternately threatening and whining, he somehow managed to work some real menace into a two-dimensional role. Amid all the silliness with the crocodile (or alligator or whatever it is) and the curls and face, I wasn't sure just how harmless Hook really was.

Now, I would be derelict in my duty if I didn't talk about Mark Einbright as the lovable Mr. Smee. I couldn't decide whether to be offended by all the swishing and lipping or not. It was funny, but... But why is it that directors keep pulling out these stupid old cliches and pasting them onto villains. The instigation that Hook and Smee have a little something going on the side, and that makes them all the more fun to hate, is just too much. The message is clear: these are bad guys, and not real men, either.

I realize that the show is primarily aimed at kids. And that's why it bothers me. It's just the wrong message: queers are villains. Let's laugh at them, and then throw them overboard.

Other than that, everything was fine. Costumes, lights, and Curtis C.'s and Cynthia Smithers' wonderfully witty choreography were all on target. And except for the subliminal stuff, Ken Zimmerman did a fine job directing. Just getting all those children going in the same direction at the same time is an accomplishment.

All in all, the show succeeds on the merits of its theatre craft. Tinkerbell is a red flashlight, and you can see the light cables. No retreat behind flashy technology. Just solid acting, singing and dancing.
On the Pilgrimage

By JAAN STURGIS
Staff Writer

Turkey day may seem but a memory, but it's one of America's most widely celebrated, and anticipated, holidays. But where did everyone go?

Dearhearts, everyone's friend Tammy Wil­lard entertained prominent 37205er Frank Ash and those omnipresent boys and political activists Sam Adams and Krys Krakowiak. Sam was at his holiday best wearing his "holiday" eyes. What does that mean? Max Factor? Char­les of the Ritz? What?

Ray Harrison cut meat at a smorgasbord and claims he carved five turkeys. Truly a meaty one of America's most widely celebrated, and discussed, holiday. What an interesting thing to do, especially if you're a vegetarian.

While in St. Louis I visited with former Nash­villian Dwayne Estes, who is now attending Webster College in Webster, Missouri, and his partner. His favorite Brady kid: Peter. His favorite food: sauerkraut and chicken. Yes, chicken. What an interesting thing to do, especially on a holiday and especially if the vice squad is no where to be found.

Alan Jewell had his memoirs dearest in from Paducah and bought the turkey and fixings from MegaMarket. Highlights of their day in­cluded a walk through Raccoon Lake's Wildlife Area where he said the crowd was so thick that he could hardly decide which man he liked best. Decisions, decisions! And then the ride of their lives in the elevator at the Stouffer. Happy couple Harrison Hicks and Mitchell Patton ate at the MCC potluck, then proceeded to Centennial Park for some playground equipment antics. Some people have to work off their dinners before it goes to their hips.

Nashville-newcomer, John Aucan spent his holiday with Tim Roberts and Billy Isaacs. Billy bailed the bird and all partook. Speaking of Tim, his GRE scores came back and my mouth watered. Something to do with math? Max Factor? Charles of the Ritz? Must be something to do with math.

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While in St. Louis I visited with former Nash­villian Dwayne Estes, who is now attending Webster College in Webster, Missouri, and his cute, pert! lover Dale Wingley. Dwayne swept me off my feet minutes after my arrival to cheer him on at the Front Page, a pub where Dwayne plays the piano. After perusing the bar carefully, I determined I was the youngest person there. Imagine! We're talking dinosaurs!

Anyway, I chatted up the locals since the Front Page is a neighborhood pub of Bob Davis and his husband sang along as Dwayne banged out "Blessed Assurance" and "Climb Every Mountain" to a dedicated — ye, dearhearts — inebriated audience.

I chatted with banker Willie Meadows, who said he lives in one of the finest Edwardian style homes (erected in 1902) in St. Louis. He said brick was a common building material there because of the brick factories and that you rarely see a clapboard house in the city center. Willie's favorite food: sauerkraut and bratwurst. His favorite color: blue. His favorite Monkee: Peter. His favorite Brady kid: Peter. His favorite thing: Pet... Oh you get the drift.

From St. Louis, I was bound for glory. Well, Davenport actually, where I was greeted by Mama Liz and her hubby Ron. My old friend J.C. Holland hasn't been so perky in years! I swear that although he persists in saying he's 39, this time he really looked it. He says he's forsaken sex for money. Sure.

The gold-dust twins, Chris Kennedy and Ron Fowler, were as talkative as all get-out. They wined and dined me for the bulk of my time in Davenport actually, where I was greeted by Mama Liz and her hubby Ron. My old friend J.C. Holland hasn't been so perky in years! I swear that although he persists in saying he's 39, this time he really looked it. He says he's forsaken sex for money. Sure.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

• 3 male and 1 female Chinese Shar-pets. Ready for Christmas $750-$1200. 615 876-8547.

• HAVING A CITY ATTACK? Come home for the Holidays. Lee Valley Farm, the stress-free mountain retreat. SASE to LVF-D, Rt 9 Box 223 Rogersville, TN 37857 (615) 272-4068.

• HAVE A HEART AT CHRISTMAS. Details soon.

• Transsexual/transgenderal support group forming in Nashville. Strictly confidential. DARE DRAWER 26.

• Now forming: support group for black lesbians. Les Femmes Unis, c/o MCC-Nashville, 131 15th Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37203

• VANDERBILT LAMBDA's new film series—next: "The Berlin Affair", 7pm Thursday, Dec. 8, in 220 Garland ($1 donation). Be there. Or be straight.

• LONG HOURS. HARD WORK. NO PAY. Dare is accepting applications from writers. Learn community-oriented journalism, and be one of the best. Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone 615-292-9623.

• Gay or lesbian teenagers who would like to meet others and are interested in forming a support group in Nashville: write Box 158002, Nashville 37215-0082. All correspondence held in strictest confidence.

REAL ESTATE

• Great 1 BDR. apartment in restored house. Upstairs, central h/a, new kitchen— all new appliances, new bath, new carpet, track light, mini blinds, private patio and parking. Lease. $450/month. 615 262-5985.


• NOSMOKER female to share house with same. $265 + utilities. 615 269-4680.


PERSONALS

• GWM new to Nash. Looking for GBM For Fun+companionship or more.Must be topman. Will answer all. DARE DRAWER 27.

• Revenge is sweet, darling.

• Lesbians from Hell: Deborah the Dominatrix, Mitsy, Bobbie Jo, Macho Slut and Tude. And when we exhibit no cruise control" we're lesbians from Accel (or is it Excel?) I’ll tour with y'all anytime, anywhere, just get your motor runnin’ Love, Butch.

All ads run for two consecutive weeks and cost:

• $10 for up to 100 characters

• $20 for up to 200 characters

• and soon.

We reserve the right to edit ads for length, and reject any ad. Sexually explicit or exploitative ads will not be accepted. No ad will be accepted without signature and advance payment in full. Response drawers are available if you do not wish to use your own address. To respond to a response drawer ad, write to: Dare,Dawer, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422

Ads received by noon Tuesdays will run the following Friday. Questions? Phone 615 292-9623 or 615 352-5823 for information.