Jury quizzed about attitudes toward homosexuality

by JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Some 48 middle Tennesseans are being questioned by both prosecuting and defense attorneys as jury selection gets underway. During Monday's opening session, U.S. District Judge John T. Nixon asked the prospective jurors to complete a 42-page questionnaire designed to gauge their attitudes about sexually-explicit material, homosexuality and anal intercourse.

The 12 jurors selected from the 48-person pool will be required to watch videotapes of movies which federal prosecutors say are obscene in their depiction of sadomasochistic acts between gay men. The movies, continued on page 3

"Live grenade" politician sues San Francisco gay paper

by STUART BIVIN
Editor

Antigay U.S. Representative William Dannemeyer (R-Orange County, Calif.) has sued the Bay Area Reporter (BAR), a San Francisco lesbian and gay newspaper, for libel because BAR reprinted a memo exploring how the Republican party could capitalize on the AIDS pandemic for political gain.

Dannemeyer is widely known for his opposition to lesbian, gay and AIDS rights legislation. His appearance before the Presidential AIDS Commission in Nashville last March was picketed by ACT UP/Nashville (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power).

The Charleston Research Group (CRG) memo said that Dannemeyer was "foaming at the mouth," a "live grenade" and "far too emotional to do any good" for the Republican Party on AIDS issues. CRG is a Republican consulting firm run by Charles Reed, Ronald Reagan's 1984 deputy campaign manager.

BAR is represented in the case by National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), a San Francisco-based public interest law firm.

"The First Amendment and California law protect the right of newspapers to report freely," continued on page 3

New Tennessee "pro-family" group attacks lesbian, gay rights

by JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

Seeking to turn back legislation and social mores perceived to be pornographic, pro-homosexual and pro-abortion, organizers of the Tennessee Coalition for Traditional Values (TCTV) last weekend met in Nashville to mount their campaign.

TCTV wants to build a statewide network of Christians to register voters, stay abreast of legislation and lobby state and federal lawmakers to ensure that their anti-gay, anti-abortion rights, pro-family stands are not defeated.

"We want to build a mighty engine for God's glory," Thomas Cummings Jr., chair of the coalition, said during the first training session for about 250 church leaders. "We want to return this country to its biblical and moral foundations."

Cummings' remarks set the tone for the gathering designed to re-establish America's biblical heritage, which delegates claimed has been eroded by a "secular humanist minority" that has forced its godless morals on the majority.

TCTV's first goal, organizers said, will be to fight hardcore pornography on the state and local level. The Saturday meeting followed a Friday morning of the recently-formed Nashville Coalition Against Pornography (NCAP) during which Jerry Kirk, founder of the National Coalition Against Pornography, called for an attack on "hardcore, violent, degrading, humiliating" pornography.

"Most of us are just as concerned about softcore porn, but if you try to focus on everything, you will divide Nashville," Kirk, a Cincinnati, Ohio, minister, said. "A lot of people are not sure where they stand on softcore porn, but they are sure about hardcore porn."

NCAP chair Joe Rodgers, former ambassador to France and Republican party stalwart, addressed the TCTV meeting, asking that the group to join in the fight against pornography.

"This is something everybody can get behind. It has become clear that there is a direct tie between hardcore illegal pornography and violent sex crimes. This is not censorship. We're not talking about soft porn but the hardcore stuff that is illegal and not protected by the First Amendment," Rodgers said.

Usually considered "softcore" are magazines, videotapes and movies depicting sexually explicit behavior, including Blueboy and Advocate Men. Materials considered "hardcore" are those which depict extremely graphic sexual acts or "deviant" sexual behavior such as pedophilia or bestiality.

"In hardcore porn, less than 7% deals with vaginal intercourse," Kirk said. "Less that 5% deals with intercourse between one man and one woman — and they aren't married."

Rodgers told Saturday's gathering that he believes illegal pornography could be eradicated within 18 months, if a groundswell of public opinion dictates such action. He also seized the opportunity to make a plea for donations to NCAP, which says it needs

continued on page 3

INSIDE

this week's Dare


Takes two hands, does it, Rila Mae? Quotes, page 8.
How to be gay and straight at the same time.

It's great to be gay, but it isn't as much fun if you're in pain. Dr. Deborah Kowalski uses gentle techniques to bring your spine into its proper alignment, easing the pain of backaches, headaches and muscle aches.

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...new anti-gay group

* continued from page 1

$300,000 for its 18-month effort.

Other speakers bemoaned the trend toward secular humanism in textbooks and legislation and vowed to do battle with state officials over the topics.

Members of the TCTV all-mail board of directors, in addition to Cummings, who is owner of Cummings, Inc., include: Don Finto of Belmont Church; Steve Platt of Madison Church of Christ; Robert Hammen of Temple Baptist Church; Charles McGowen of Christ Presbyterian Church; Jerry Sutton of Two Rivers Baptist Church; and business people Thomas Singleton, De Vaughan Woods and James Stadler. *

...Nashville porn trial

* continued from page 1

distributed by Toushin's Slave and Master Video Inc. and Entertainment and Amusement Inc., include You Said a Mouthful and Please Sir.

Information gleaned from the 42-page questionnaire will enable attorneys to choose qualified jurors, according to Nixon.

"The information gathered by the questionnaire will be held in confidence, only for the court and the attorneys, and not made public," Nixon said.

Among questions included:

- Do you have strong religious, moral or personal convictions about homosexuality?
- Should videotapes depicting "concerning adult men having intercourse with other men" be banned from sale to adults?
- Have you attended a movie theater showing X-rated films?

Prospective jurors will also be questioned by defense attorneys in judge's chambers, but details of that questioning will not be made public.

Charges against Rosen and Toushin resulted from a 1985 complaint filed by the Nashville Edgefield neighborhood was "extremely ill" at the time the complaints were filed.

"It is believed that this sister, with whom he was staying during his illness, intercepted his mail and filed the complaints on her behalf," Toushin said.

"Apparently Kemp's name was on some sort of gay mailing list which Toushin bought to use for distributing his flyers," said Nashville attorney Don Dawson, defense counsel for Rosen.

Toushin was convicted of taxing evasion by a Chicago jury. An Internal Revenue Service agent characterized the theater as "a combination adult theater and gay orgy room."

According to Chicago reports, the Bijou has been raided for selling possibly pornographic materials but not for on-site "lewd and lascivious conduct," a common charge against adult theaters, especially those that show films depicting homosexual acts.

The Bijou does attract a sizable gay clientele, Chicago sources say, despite the fact that Toushin is allegedly heterosexual.

Also charged are Toushin's associates Randy Larsen and Sean O'Connor.

If found guilty of violating federal obscenity laws, the defendants face a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a possible $250,000 fine on each of the counts. *

...Dannemeyer sues gay paper

* continued from page 1

on public figures. This suit is patently frivolous and we expect the court to throw it out," said E.L. W. Gould, leader of the NGRA defense team.

Both the New York Times and the Associated Press covered the same story, prompting charges that Dannemeyer had singled out BAR because it is a gay paper. BAR publisher Bob Ross said, "This suit was filed to intimidate us because the BAR is a gay paper. Well, it won't work; we'll fight this all the way. We intend to have thorough coverage of Congressman Dannemeyer's activities."

Asked if it is libelous to say that Dannemeyer was "foaming at the mouth," NGRA Legal Director Leonard Graff said, "Truth is an absolute defense to a charge of libel." *
4

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NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
CAST SHOWS TUESDAY & THURSDAY

by JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

LES MISÉRABLES IS PROBABLY the most stunning theatrical event of this, or any other, generation.
But the list of superlatives usually employed by a theater critic to review a production becomes meaningless and insignificant when referring to the musical masterpiece that is Les Miserables. Everything you could possibly hear about the show is true: it is an involving, almost stupefying experience, a theater happening of epic proportions. The touring company, which Tuesday night opened an eight-performance run in the Tennessee Performing Arts Center's Jackson Hall, brings the multiple-award-winning, multi-million dollar production to brilliant life, rivaling Broadway's best with their Nashville performances.

By now the story of Les Miserables should be well-known, certainly to every French school-child, but also to everyone in this country who has ever read, or seen a filmed version, of Victor Hugo's book.

At the center of the story is Jean Valjean. (performed by Gary Barker in an emotionally-charged, sensitive characterization that elicits his audience's warmth and affection), a Frenchman who is finally released from 19 years on a chain-gang - imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread and imprisoned for stealing his sister's starving baby. Finally released from prison, Valjean is faced with the bigotry and distrust brought about by his status as an ex-convict. Thanks to the kind intervention of the Bishop of Digne, he is given another chance in life, adopting an alias and becoming a prosperous factory owner and mayor of the seaport city of Montereil.

Pursued through the years by the dastardly Inspector Javert (played by Peter Samuel with layers of shading to delineate the character from the one-note villain he could have been in the hands of a lesser actor), Valjean falls prey once again to Javert's machinations when he rushes to the aid of an injured peasant. He steals away from Javert in order to fulfill the deathbed wish of Pantine (a young woman who had worked in his factory) to rescue her daughter, Cosette, from the hands of her guardians, the Thénardiers.

Valjean raises Cosette as his own daughter and, in 1832 Paris, realizes she is a woman in love with the fiery revolutionary Marius. Valjean, Javert, Cosette, Marius, the Thénardiers, and other characters are thrust violently into the second French revolution, bringing the plot to its riveting climax on the barricades.

by JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

THERE IS A SONG in the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice opera, Evita, called "Rainbow High" which tells of the preparations for Eva Peron's European tour.

Eva is surrounded by hairdressers and couturiers whom she tells "I have to be thrilling, I want to be rainbow high... in magical colors." And, following the orders of one of the world's most powerful women, they oblige, giving Europe a stunning view of post-war South American excess.

The preparations associated with Eva Peron's European tour, however, are nothing compared with Tennessee Repertory Theatre's efforts to bring Evita to the stage next week.

With opening night less than a week away, Ginger Newman and Louis Padilla, along with the rest of the ensemble, are putting the finishing touches on their performances, guaranteeing mid-state theater audiences a magical experience.

Newman, who will sing the role of Eva, and Padilla, who will sing the role of Che, both admitted that as time approaches for the opening night curtain they are both getting a little nervous.

"I get so nervous, I can hardly think," Newman said. "But the moment the show begins, the nervousness is gone and that moment takes us."

Padilla, nursing a case of the flu, admitted that his main concern is just being healthy by next Thursday. "I'm scared just because I've been sick for a few days and I worry about whether I'll lose my voice just before the show. So I tell the doctors, just give me some antibiotics, please!"

Newman and Padilla, both playing the roles for the first time, are approaching Evita much as students approach an final exam. They study their lines, the music, listen to the director's notes and apparently read anything about Eva Peron they can get their hands on.

"I CAN'T TELL YOU how excited I am to be doing this role," Newman said. "I've wanted to do this role since I first heard about the musical when I was a senior in high school. But what I've learned is that in order to do Eva, you need to have some age, some experience on you to do her justice."

Padilla, in his fourth production of Evita, will for the first time play Che, who serves as a sort of Greek chorus to offer comments on the musical's action. Before he has always been cast as Magaldi, the Argentine singer who takes Eva away from her village of Junin.

"I've never been considered for Che before because I've never had a beard before," Padilla said. "I couldn't get people to consider me for Che although I had understudied Mandy Patinkin (who originated the role of Che on Broadway)."

Nevertheless, the two find themselves in thrall of the legend of Eva Peron, considered one of the world's most powerful women at a time when women in power were virtually non-existent. Raised as the fourth of five illegitimate children of a peasant woman, Eva Duarte knew first hand of the chauvinist society
Les Mis, though termed a "rock opera" by some, is an amazing amalgam of music, lyrics and acting—the term rock opera does not do justice to the show's scope. Certainly some of the music is rock-tinged, but it transcends rock music's limitations and is somewhat dated sound. Instead, the music in Les Mis is timeless and melodic, conquering mind and heart alike with its recurring themes and almost frighteningly sweet refrains.

THE SCORE — with music by Claude-Michel Schönberg and lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer—is beautiful, at times lush and romantic, at others foreboding and powerful, in essence, a musical dream. It is a perfect blending of words and music.

This blending is perhaps best exemplified in the mesmerizing "I Dreamed a Dream," sung by Christy Baron as Fantine in Act One, "On My Own," sung by Michele Maika as Eponine in Act Two, "Bring Him Home," sung by Gary Barker as Jean Valjean in Act Two and the rousing finale performed by the entire company (which includes the lyric "To love an-other person is to see the face of God")

Baron's Fantine is lovely and hopeful, cynical and selfless at the same time. Her lovely voice is filled with emotion as she sings of her lost dreams. Maika's Eponine is spirited and cunning, artfully disguising her pure heart. Her voice is touching and melancholy during "On My Own," although she seemed to rush her lyrics, denying the audience enough time to appreciate the song.

THE STAGING is phenomenal: the revolving stage enables the production to be viewed in this video age almost as a movie, with each scene flowing into the next with seamless grace. John Napier's set is almost entrancing, all manner of things brought together to form anything the imagination allows. The two scenes which stand out in one's mind both come in Act Two: the limp bodies of the dead students strewn about the barricades in a macabre, yet oddly fascinating, tableau of death; and Javert's suicide leap into the teeming waters of the River Seine. Both scenes were chilling—that they took place on stage, unbelievable.

If you never see another stage production, you really should see Les Misérables. It takes the imagination to such heights that it startles the audience. You will be amazed. You will be moved.

Les Misérables will continue its Nashville run through Sunday, May 7, with the company appearing next month at the Orpheum in Memphis.

---

To stage Evita

That was, and possibly still is, Argentina.

"Evita is fascinating. You either love her or you hate her. I know how I feel about her, but I like for the audience to decide for themselves how they feel. I don't want them coming in with a preconceived notion about her," Newman said.

According to Newman, Evita Peron was very much an '80s kind of woman, incredibly ahead of her time.

And why is her story so appealing?

"Because she used the power she had to do the things she wanted to do. Wouldn't everyone like to do that? Wouldn't you?" Padilla asked. "I would love to gain power and use it to give more funds for AIDS research. The story of someone actually doing something like that is incredibly appealing."

"Evita went from someone who was starving to someone who could have anything, yet she remained very dedicated to the poor people of Argentina," Newman said.

And Padilla, in Tennessee for the run of the show after a successful performance last year in TRT's Jesus Christ Superstar, related a story of apartment hunting in New York City—and feeling the influence of Evita Peron some 30 years after her death from cancer in 1952.

"I was looking at an apartment and the woman asked me what I did. I told her I was an actor and I had a two-day break from Evita. She said, 'No one knows the real story of Evita. But I do, I was her best friend.'" Padilla recounted.

The woman told of her friendship with Eva during Juan Peron's tenure as president of Argentina. The woman, a member of the diplomatic corps, spoke of Eva's kindness and generosity—traits somehow forgotten by authors and historians.

"She was a dichotomous character. She loved the poor but hated the rich," Newman said.

Their passion for Eva notwithstanding, how do the two see the production shaping up?

"Seven Kent is an amazing director and this ensemble is absolutely wonderful," Padilla said. "People don't always realize that the ensemble is what makes this show a success. Sure Eva, Che and Peron are wonderfully written, but the people in the ensemble have the hardest jobs."

"This is a tough job," Newman said. Her character must age from 15 to 32 during the course of the show, a metamorphosis brought about by wigs, costumes and makeup. "Her aging is not really a vocal issue, but more an attitude or acting issue." And Padilla's impression of Newman's Eva?

"She's wonderful. She's the fourth Eva I've worked with and she's by far the best. She has a wonderful voice and Steve is now tapping into her acting abilities," he said.

Evita opens in TPAC's Polk Theater on May 11, with additional 8 p.m. performances set for May 12, 13, 18-20, and 24-27. Sunday matinees are scheduled for May 14 and 21.

Tickets, ranging in price from $14.50 to $22.50, are on sale at all CentraTik and Ticketmaster outlets, Sound Shop Records, Dillard's, Tower Records and Books and Turtles Records. Tickets may also be obtained by calling (615) 320-7172 or (615) 741-2787. •

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Conductors Anniversary Show
"Luck is a Lady"
PWA Fundraiser
Show at 10:30

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HOW MANY OF US have tried to overcome
nature with a hoe (or a bulldozer) if we were
feeling particularly batty), only to stand and
watch it grow in on us again. This time, exhaus-
ted from the previous excavation, we al-
low the persistent foliage to grow and blossom
into the strange and beautiful Passiflora, the
lavender Passion-Flower. Allowed to reach
maturity, the Passion-Flower grows and ripens
into a large yellow fruit; its soft flesh can
nourish the body. Hopefully we learn to ap-
preciate and incorporate nature’s Passion-Flower
into our gardens.

When the narrator of
Daryl Hine’s new autobiographical
book-length poem, In and Out, is asked if he is
“homosexual” by his col-
leagues, he replies that he is “hope-
fully gay.” This confession comes after a year of exploring the nature
of his life, finding and excavating the Passion-
Flower from his garden with the hoe of Cath-
olicism and finally realizing that the roots
cannot be destroyed. It grows back stronger
than before. He allows the delicate vine to wind its way around him, take root in his brain
and blossom in his heart.

Daryl Hine chooses the epigraph for his work: Naturam /urea
Hines /am /usque recurrit. “Although you may drive away nature by means of a pitch-fork,
she nevertheless will return all the way.

This theme is the all-too-common experience
for many lesbians and gay men.

Discovering our lavender intentions we set
upon the laborious task of hoeing them out of
our lives, often dedicating ourselves to any
narrator found
patterns, we hope to gain control over this
strangely alluring vine infiltrating our garden.

Fortunately, nature usually wins, and during
this struggle to overcome our sexuality we
become stronger, wiser and more understand-
ing of human nature. If we are lucky we find
that the interests we so intensely cultivated
in place of our sexuality can coexist in harmony
with it, and are often made stronger by it.

At the beginning of In and Out the narrator
explores his feelings for a youth named Mark
whom he describes as a “delicate shoot.” The
relationship, which develops during the brisk,
colorful days of a Canadian autumn, and is
cumulatively on a cold, snowbound night in
a ski lodge. The fire created by the young men,
however, sends Mark into the arms of a woman
and the narrator into the arms of Catholicism.

The narrator spends the beginning of the
following summer working in a Catholic ref-
uge for the homeless, Lazarus House. He
immerses himself in service to the poor.

One morning he wakes from a dream
clutching his pillow:

An awakening, doubly distressful to me,
since the dream I attempted to capture again
was forbidden and had to be banished.

By the beginning of his sophomore year, the
narrator finds it increasingly difficult to honor
his vows. The charming mystique of his new
friend, Hyacinth Star, serves only to saturate
his garden with fertilizer and now the Passion-
Flower grows wilder than ever “for the friends-
ships of youth are more instant than Nescafe,
needing not even hot water.”

Thus begins another cycle for the narrator,
who has been in and out of love, religion and
McGill. However, he has never stepped out of
life or its protective grace.

In and Out is written in accentual anapest,
rhythm running three per line, as seen in
Hine’s description of spring in Montreal:

“The Instantaneous Spring had attacked /Mont-
real overnight like a laxative /loosening snow
from the slopes of the mountain, from the
rooftops and sidewalks/and streets, where it
piled up in barricades/during our annual
siesie…”

Daryl Hine studied at McGill University and
was promoted to a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at the
University of Chicago. He went on to teach at the
University of Chicago, the University of Illinois and Northwestern University. He was
editor of Poetry for ten years and has published
more than fifteen books, including several
translations, a novel and ten verse collections.

His poetry includes Academic Festival
Overture, a book-length narrative poem of his
first year of junior high school, a playful pre-
lude to the more elevated style of In and Out.

HINE’S CATHOLIC ADVENTURE and his
disciplined study of the Classics have made
him one of the most respected contemporary
poets. His themes, as well as his tightly con-
trolled style of writing, rank him with the late
19th-century poet Constantine P. Cavafy.

The Hines In and Out narrator found plenty
of room in his garden for nature to find
its way back; his hoe was given the new task of
turning nutrients into the soil, never again
to cut the stem of Passiflora.

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to cut the stem of Passiflora.
**M A R K E T**

**Announcements**
- **WANTED:** Reliable and energetic people to help deliver Dare in Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville. Write Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone 615-327-DARE.
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- **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 615-327-DARE.

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- **32-year-old professional GW man** new to Nashville and gay life. Enjoys dining out, theater, reading, quiet time for sharing. Seeks friendship, possible relationship with sensitive and caring man. DARE DRAWER 37.
- **Cathy** adores a minx, the Ballets Russes and crispies Suzettes, but Cathy loves to rock 'n roll — a hot dog makes her lose control. What a wild dude!
- **30-year-old enlightened gay male** seeks one who is courageously sensitive for emotional involvement. A radical soul living in a reactionary world, idealistic, willing to grow and experience joy who enjoys the unusual. A seeker of bliss. DARE DRAWER 36.

**Persons**
- **1982 edition.** "When will college officials accept the reality that if the Constitution does not bestow the right to anyone to shout 'fire!' in a crowded theater, the First Amendment does not grant the right to shout 'Niggers!' when the basketball team walks by?"
- "Allegedly, much soul-searching is going on from Stanford to Columbia, from Emory University in Georgia to the University of Michigan over whether campus officials may suppress "speech" that incites racism, sexism, hatred of homosexuals and other 'different' groups."
- "An enemy of mine is free to picket my house or stand in the street and vilify me, but he is not protected by the Constitution if he tries to do that at my dinner table."
- "Similarly, a student admitted to Stanford or Emory has no constitutional right to provoke hatred and violence on campus, any more than he or she would in a theater. A college president or board has a right to say to each student admitted, "We have accepted standards of conduct here, and your admission is based upon your acceptance of those standards.""
- "Some of the people who claim to be the greatest protectors of individual freedom are giving "civility" a bad name by trying to extend to bigots "rights" to harass, vilify and abuse others that are not granted anywhere in the Constitution."
- "A lesbian scene — passionate kissing by two women — in Monday's opener didn't appear in the show Queen Elizabeth says on a benefit night last week. A show spokesman said props had not been ready, but other reports implied it was cut to avoid offending the queen."
- "Jeannie Williams, USA Today gossip columnist, on Cats composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's new hit London musical Aspects of Love."
- "I've been accused of single-handedly converting hundreds of young women to lesbianism. Well, they're wrong. It takes two hands."
- "Rubythul Jungle author Rita Mae Brown, talking with the audience at last Thursday at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville."