National groups get new leaders

by CAROLE CUNNINGHAM

By the end of this month, two of the nation's top gay and lesbian rights advocacy organizations will be under the leadership of new executive directors.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the Human Right Campaign Fund (HRCF) have each known since early 1989 of the impending departure of their top administrators.

On May 6, HRCF appointed Boston attorney Kevin McFeeley to their top post. McFeeley, whose private sector finance experience edged out candidates with more extensive grassroots gay and lesbian organizing experience, brings a solid background in public interest law and electoral politics to HRCF's Washington, D.C.-based lobbying efforts.

HRCF's lobbying success in recent years has largely been due to its innovative campaigns aimed at involving otherwise inactive gay men and lesbians in backing the group's legislative efforts in Washington. HRCF kicked off its mailgram campaign at the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

The group's budget will surpass $2 million this year. NGLTF will choose its new executive director before the end of next week from a field narrowed from 86 to eight final candidates. Sue Hyde, coordinator of the

Nashville doctors issue HIV-test policy

by DEBORAH BURKS

Tennessee's oldest medical association, the Nashville Academy of Medicine, recently released its policy on HIV testing. According to Rob Dawster, public affairs specialist for the Academy, a task force composed of local hospital officials, public health personnel and Academy board members studied the issues for several months and made the following policy recommendations May 4:

"A. VOLUNTARY TESTING: The Nashville Academy of Medicine encourages voluntary HIV testing when part of an indicated diagnostic and infection control effort.

"B. CONSENT FOR TESTING: The NAM supports the need for informed consent for HIV testing in all but the exceptions specified in Section C below. Patients undergoing testing should receive appropriate pre- and post-test counseling. Informed consent for HIV testing includes provision of accurate information not only on clinical aspects but potential discrimination regarding insurance, employment, etc., as well as the anticipated benefit of early medical care, if the patient is found to be infected."

"C. MANDATORY TESTING: HIV testing should be mandatory only for donors of blood and blood components, organs and other tissues intended for transplantation in the United States or abroad, and for donors of semen or ova collected for artificial insemination or in vitro fertilization, and for persons whose body fluids have inadvertently exposed a health care provider thus creating a significant risk of disease transmission."

"D. HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS: In a hospital setting, HIV testing should be undertaken only on a voluntary basis as part of a medical evaluation with informed consent and appropriate pre- and post-test counseling. Patients who decline recommended testing will be subject to the same infection control and risk reduction measures that apply to infected patients."

"E. SURGICAL PATIENTS: HIV testing of patients scheduled for surgery should be voluntary, by informed consent and accompanied by pre- and post-test counseling. Again, patients who decline or who are unable to consent to testing will be subject to the infection control and risk reduction measures that apply to infected patients."

"F. CONFIDENTIALITY OF HIV TEST RESULTS: The NAM encourages confidentiality of HIV test results consistent with confidentiality accorded all medical records."

Dawster said the policy study was prompted by the death of Harold Dennison, a local surgeon who died of AIDS-related complications in January. Dennison claimed to have contracted HIV from a blood splash which occurred while he performed surgery.

"Some board and Academy members felt a need to formulate a policy that would provide guidance in the protection of health care workers who deal with this disease," Dawster said.

The Academy policy has been sent to local hospitals and physicians but, Dawster explained, is intended to be used as a guideline in dealing with HIV testing and "is in no way legally binding" on hospitals and Academy members.

Nashville Planned Parenthood burgled

by JEFF ELLIS

Managing Editor

Thieves took more than $12,600 in cash and checks during a break-in of the Nashville office of Planned Parenthood during the early hours of Monday, June 5, according to a Metro Police Department report.

Laura Milner, Planned Parenthood public affairs director, said she could neither confirm or deny the occurrence of the break-in and declined comment.

According to the police report, "someone entered the Planned Parenthood building... from the garage downstairs." Planned Parenthood has its offices in the University Plaza building at 112 21st Avenue, South.

Thieves took an estimated $12,620 in cash and checks from the Planned Parenthood safe. The bandits apparently chiseled a hole through a concrete-block wall separating the offices from a private stairwell to gain access to the offices, where they then dismantled the safe.

A source who spoke on condition of anonymity told Dare that thieves apparently gained entry to the building via an unlocked door leading to the stairwell from the building's ground-floor parking deck.

The building's security officer checked the premises at 3:17 a.m. according to the police report, and "the hole wasn't in the wall at that time." When Planned Parenthood staffers reported for work at 9 a.m. Monday, they discovered the safe had been pried open and some $12,620 was missing.

Planned Parenthood's office throughout the past year has been the site of protests staged by anti-abortion activists. Last month, an altercation between two protestors and Milner resulted in criminal charges filed by both sides of the dispute.

Milner alleged that she was attacked on the same staircase by the...
How to be gay and straight at the same time.

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That surprises me. A lot of people don't like to talk about AIDS.

Phillip: Nobody talks about it. But everybody's afraid of getting it.
Are you afraid?

Phillip: Of AIDS—yes. Of talking about it—no.
What sort of reaction do you get when you mention AIDS?

Phillip: It certainly gets their attention.

NASHVILLE

Mondays
Gay Renaissance Anonymous Open meeting for lesbians and gay men. MCC. 6:30pm. Info 615-320-1128.

Nashville CARES Enthusiastic Creative Community. 1st Thursday only. 7pm. Info 615-254-1277.

Tuesdays
Gay Renaissance Anonymous Open meeting for lesbians and gay men. MCC. 6:30pm. Info 615-320-1128.

Ageless Coffeehouse Lavender Cluster. 1st Thursday only. 7:30pm. Info 615-267-0089.

Wednesday
Gay Renaissance Anonymous Open meeting for lesbians and gay men. MCC. 6:30pm. Info 615-320-1128.

Nashville CARES Enthusiastic Creative Community. 1st Thursday only. 7pm. Info 615-254-1277.

Thursday
Gay Renaissance Anonymous Open meeting for lesbians and gay men. MCC. 6:30pm. Info 615-320-1128.

Nashville CARES Enthusiastic Creative Community. 1st Thursday only. 7pm. Info 615-254-1277.

Fridays
Gay Renaissance Anonymous Open meeting for lesbians and gay men. MCC. 6:30pm. Info 615-320-1128.

Tuesdays
Gay Renaissance Anonymous Open meeting for lesbians and gay men. MCC. 6:30pm. Info 615-320-1128.

Ageless Coffeehouse Lavender Cluster. 1st Thursday only. 7:30pm. Info 615-267-0089.

Gay Parents Support Group Meeting. MCC. 1st Wednesday only. 7pm. Info 615-267-0089.

Gay Renaissance Anonymous Open meeting for lesbians and gay men. MCC. 6:30pm. Info 615-320-1128.

Thursday
Gay Parents Support Group Meeting. MCC. 1st Wednesday only. 7pm. Info 615-267-0089.

Alternative (Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting for lesbians and gay men. MCC. 6:30pm. Info 615-320-1128.

Lavender Adolescent Children of Alcoholics (LACA) Meeting. 6pm. Info 615-385-4784.

Gay Renaissance Anonymous Open meeting for lesbians and gay men. MCC. 6:30pm. Info 615-320-1128.

Fridays
Gay Renaissance Anonymous Open meeting for lesbians and gay men. MCC. 6:30pm. Info 615-320-1128.

Gay Renaissance Anonymous Open meeting for lesbians and gay men. MCC. 6:30pm. Info 615-320-1128.

Gay Renaissance Anonymous Open meeting for lesbians and gay men. MCC. 6:30pm. Info 615-320-1128.

Saturday
Gay Renaissance Anonymous Open meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd. 10am.

Gay Renaissance Anonymous Open meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd. 10am.

Sunday
Gay Renaissance Anonymous Open meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd. 10am.

Gay Renaissance Anonymous Open meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd. 10am.
ASK serves southern Kentucky

by HARRISON HICKS
Staff Writer

EGG LASWELL CREDITS: Janet Pierce, former director of the AIDS service organization Nashville CARES, with the idea for ASK (AIDS Support of Southern Kentucky), a volunteer nonprofit organization which provides educational and support services to the public about HIV infection and providing support services for those infected with HIV. Laswell, now administrative coordinator for ASK, said he was a Nashville CARES volunteer in 1987 when Pierce first pointed out the need to him for an organization to inform people in the rural areas of southern Kentucky about AIDS and its prevention.

Laswell followed up on the conversation, and with the help of others formed ASK, which was chartered in March, 1988. Since then, headed by a fifteen-member board of directors with a volunteer staff of almost thirty people, ASK has started a speaker's bureau to provide speakers to talk with various business and civic groups over the past year about AIDS, HIV infection and the prevention of AIDS. ASK facilitators have also spoken to several fraternities at Kentucky colleges since identifying college students as well as gay men as one of their educational target groups.

THE GROUP has also worked with various local and state agencies to provide services to HIV-positive clients and those with AIDS. Laswell said that the organization makes a conscious attempt not to duplicate existing services, acting as a referral service whenever possible but available to "provide services no one else is providing."

As an organization serving rural areas, ASK has faced several problems since its formation. One such problem, he said, is distance. The ten-county Barren River Development District, the area which ASK services, covers more than 4000 square miles with a population of about 235,000. Logistics and expense become a problem because of the amount of traveling that must be done by volunteers. With prospective clients not clustered in small areas, Laswell said, "it makes it very difficult to get support groups together."

Homophobia is another problem. Despite the fact that ASK is not what Laswell called a "gay" or "straight" organization, prospective clients for the organization are extremely fearful of being identified as gay, he said. "What we are dealing with," Laswell said, are people who live in "very small communities where everyone knows everyone else.

"Maintaining anonymity is a real problem," he said.

PROSPECTIVE CLIENTS are often so fearful that "people up there will not come to an office, even if they need help," according to Laswell. Accordingly, ASK uses its two-room Bowling Green office as a base of operations from which to send its volunteers to prospective clients, who for the most part are referred to the group by health care professionals.

Laswell said he sees health care professionals as a critical link for the organization. The group has had to rely almost completely on word of mouth and client referrals.

For the future, ASK will try to broaden its volunteer base, Laswell said, noting that most of the volunteers and directors live in the Bowling Green area. ASK will try to involve more health care professionals from around the area in its efforts and on the board of directors. The group hopes to adopt the Stop AIDS Project model used successfully in San Francisco.

Though San Francisco participants were approached in bars and on the streets for the project, Laswell was optimistic that the concept could be adapted to ASK's rural setting.

The program uses one-time small group discussions and safer sex methods. The key, Laswell said, is the small group setting, which helps maintain anonymity. For participants, the organization would rely on friendship networks, he said. For now, ASK is trying to get funding to train facilitators and purchase educational materials for the program.

Editor's note: ASK and Metropolitan Community Church/Nashville will co-sponsor a benefit sale and auction Saturday, June 17. For more information, phone (615) 320-0288.

...new leaders

• continued from page 1

group's Privacy Project and head of the executive search committee, said this week that broad-based experience in gay and lesbian rights advocacy, a longstanding commitment to gay and lesbian organizations and extensive fundraising and administrative experience were the main criteria used to narrow a large, qualified field.

She noted that the eight finalists all have experience in either gay and lesbian advocacy or AIDS advocacy. The Task Force has also strongly encouraged applications from women and persons of color.

Jeffrey Levi, who in his five years as NGLTF executive director has seen the organization's budget swell to just under $1 million, steps down from the post later this month to enter private business.

Dare to be proud

Next week, Dare commemorates Pride Week '89 and the 20th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots with a special collector's edition. You can be a part of this special issue by sharing with our readers any photographs or personal reminiscences about previous Pride celebrations.

Phone (615) 927-Dare before 5:00 p.m. Monday, June 19, for more information.

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Camilla Decarnin, Suzanne Pharr, Richard Hall,
Florine DeVeer, Alice Bloch, Lee Lynch, Sarah Aldridge,
Winston Leyland, Christopher Makos, Ken Kaak,
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★★★★★

For further information, contact:
Billy Isaacs 502-781-4430
Paul Tucker 615-320-0288
Reg Laswell 502-843-9619

by JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

BACKSTAGE SETS the scene,
with emotions at near-fever pitch.

The contestants and their entourage
are busily attending to details:
the zipper is stuck on that sequined gown, there's a nasty black streak
on those white peau de soie pumps, that
shade of eye shadow just doesn't go
with that sportswear ensemble, and
some props seem to have been misplaced
for the talent competition.

Atlantic City and the Miss America
tournament becomes a part of our entertain-
ing system. "Every contestant, every prop,
and every emotion at near-fever pitch.
"We've seen contestants wear
good, homemade gowns; they
spent $75 on and
others wearing Bob Mackie gowns
costing $5,000," said Francis Phillips,
producer of Miss Continental Music City.
"They can easily spend $10,000
preparing for a national pageant.

Yet while some contestants spend
years in preparation, Phillips said
others can pull it off in two weeks —
if they are serious about pageants.
Planning a pageant, whether it be
local, state or national, is hard work,
according to first-time producer Phil-

"People don't realize how much
time and money they go into doing a
pageant. They're very hard work,
but still a lot of fun," Phillips said.

FOR LONG-TIME pageant produ-
cers, such as Warehouse 28, the
Cabaret, Chez Collette, Victor's,
Victoria's and the Jungle Lounge,
experience gained through the years
proves invaluable when it comes
time to mount a production.

"We started with a 'Miss' pageant
in 1978; we were involved with Mr.
Blueboy and then Mr. Warehouse," said
Warehouse 28's Steve Smith.
"After a few years, we dropped pag-
eant competition completely until female impersonators
became a part of our entertain-
ing team. We started with Miss Warehouse 28
then sort of stumbled onto the U.S.A. pageant system.

Now, Warehouse 28 owns the
franchises for both Mr. and Miss Gay
Tennessee-U.S.A. The owners' Flori-
dom-based company, M-S-M Produc-
tions (named for Smith and his part-
ners Mike Wilson and Mike Lane),
holds the franchise for both the Mr.
and Miss Gay Florida-U.S.A. and the Mr.
and Miss Gay Central South-
U.S.A. pageants.

"We've recently acquired the fran-
chise for the Miss Gay Florida U.S.A.
at-Large pageant, which will be held
next Monday night" Smith said.
That pageant, and its national sys-
tem, allows "big" female impersona-
I said. "For example, the entertainers — crown, banner, roses — may lead to more lucrative rewards. Among performers in the mid-South who have won titles — on all levels of competition — are Lisa Beauman, former Miss Gay Tennessee-America; Stephanie Wells, former Miss Warehouse 28; Shelly Stone, the reigning Miss Gay South Carolina-USA; April Stevens, the reigning Miss Cabaret; Déjouére Shouřá, Miss Music City U.S.A. 1988; and Alexis Spaulding, former Grand Empress of Tennessee.

But perhaps most successful in the world of pageants is Nashville's Diana Hutton, who was crowned Miss Gay U.S.A. in 1987. Pageants for female impersonators are not without their critics. Just as some people deride the concept of female impersonation, they especially take a dim view of pageants.

Nonetheless, the pageant phenomenon is likely to remain a part of the entertainment scene in the lesbian and gay community. "I think people, when they go to one of these pageants, want to feel like they're a part of special event. It's a production in every sense of the word, from the overture to the photographs of the winners after the pageant. People feel they've seen a tight, well-choreographed show," Smith said.

"We think people will really enjoy our pageant. It's going to be a very entertaining show," Phillips said. "We asked people what they'd like to see and they told us. So we're having Carnyella Marcella Garcia and Charlie Brown, who both got their start in Nashville, to emcee the pageant. And Stephanie (Wells) is coming out of retirement to perform. It's really a big production."

And — just as young women across the country are preparing to "take the town by storm," as the Miss America song says — female impersonators are taking their own towns by storm. To the tune of a different song.

"The impact of having a title varies, depending on what area of the country you're in," Smith said. "In some areas, a title can significantly increase the number of bookings for a performer. In others, it may not necessarily increase bookings, but it helps to cultivate an interest in female impersonation as a form of entertainment."

Thus, in Continental pageants, contestants must take part in private interview categories. "The major difference in the Continental pageant system and all the others is that the 'illusion' of being a woman is stressed," Phillips said.

Smith sees parallels between pageant systems for female impersonators and pageants like Miss America: "I see many parallels. But in gay pageants, it's a lot more fun and a lot wilder. It gives people an opportunity to travel and there's a sense of fraternity to the system, a nice feeling of camaraderie."

Like Miss America, contestants in next week's Miss Continental Music City, will compete in talent, evening gown, swimsuit and private interview categories.

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To the tune of a different song. *
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We men owe one to lesbians. They've been on the front line of the fight against AIDS since the very beginning of the epidemic, even though they have the least to lose.

One thing I couldn't help noticing about the women's event was the impressive number of mothers and daughters marching side by side. Later in the day, Gloria Steinem would comment that somewhere along the line young women dropped out of the feminist movement sparked by their mothers and dropped into Ronald Reagan's "dare for success" Me-generation America.

But here, now, were two generations of activists together, united by the very real threat that their most personal, private rights could soon be revoked by Reagan's Supreme Court. I felt inspired and envious of the mothers and daughters. Frankly, I can't imagine many of my gay male friends marching with their fathers in a gay rights event.

Washington is one of the gayest cities in the world, populated by thousands of gay men. Sure, many are closeted, but why weren't there more gay men in the women's march? The night before the march I got into a dumbfounding debate with a young gay man about why he didn't support the event.

In addition to telling me he was pro-military escalation, anti-ACT UP and Republican, the man said he was not going to participate because the march didn't "pertain to my agenda of issues.

But gay men, it does pertain to our issues. First of all, privacy — or the lack of it — is an issue quite familiar and important to us. They took our right to privacy away in the anti-gay, anti-sodomy Supreme Court's Hardwick v. Bowers ruling. Next they'll try to take away the right of women to control their own bodies. Where will it stop?

Second, we owe one to lesbians. They've been on the front line of the fight against AIDS since the very beginning of the epidemic, even though they have the least to lose. Lesbians have founded and volunteered in AIDS care and support groups, protested and been arrested in front of foot-dragging government agencies, and waged anti-discrimination battles in the courts and closets of America.

And don't forget, it was an enraged lesbian who first fought back against intrusive police that night outside the Stonewall Inn twenty years ago.

I FELT PROUD and empowered to be in the women's March. It felt good to be with lesbians, fighting for the rights of all women, for the civil rights of all of us.

The Capital seemed livelier and more real the next day. Everyone was in a hurry. Crowds were moving at a steady pace, and I took advantage of this to see who was marching and who was behind it.

One of the most moving moments of the march was a series of third-wave women holding hands and marching in unison, waving rainbow flags, and shouting "women's rights are human rights!

Many of the marchers were wearing signs and buttons that said "women's liberation," "lesbian liberation," and "lesbian pride." These were not just symbols of solidarity, but a declaration of intent, a promise to continue the struggle for equality and freedom.

The atmosphere was electric, and I couldn't help but feel a sense of hope and possibility. For the first time in my life, I saw a group of women standing together, unafraid and unashamed, fighting for their rights. And I knew that, no matter what happens in the future, these women will always be remembered as heroes.
Murder

Murder Keeps a Secret, Haughton Murphy. NY: Simon and Schuster, 1989. 239 pp. $16.95, reviewed by LARRY ROMANS

Special to DARE

MURDER KEEPS A SECRET is the latest in a mystery series featuring amateur detective Reuben Frost, the 77 year-old former head of a Wall Street law firm. While not a "gay" mystery, it may have particular interest to some DARE readers: the murder victim's son attended a Nashville university (the "Harvard of the South," in fact) and the crucial clue is provided by the victim's assistant, who is dying of AIDS.

Frost's godson, David Rowan, is a prize-winning historian who is researching a biography of deceased Supreme Court Justice Ainslee. Rowan is pushed to his death from the window of his Manhattan office. Frost works with his friend, homicide detective Luis Bautista, to try to solve the murder. The suspects include the former wife and son that Rowan discarded, his chief academic competitor, his financially strapped publisher, Justice Ainslee's wife, who wants to suppress any account of her late husband's sexual liaisons, her boyfriend, a former bouncer in a gay bar who wants to keep his meal ticket happy;

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It's a good mystery that provides a night or two of pleasant reading. It can't meet any higher standard.

Rowan's live-in girl friend, who may have wanted out of the relationship, a Mafia with whom she is having an affair and a leading Presidential candidate, who worked for Justice Ainslee and who is afraid of what the Justice's papers contain.

The characters in Murder Keeps a Secret are rather two-dimensional. That would be acceptable if the characterization had been sacrificed to develop the puzzle (the murder) to be solved. But Murphy violates one of the classic canons of the puzzle mystery — the reader must know what the detective knows. No reader can logically solve this mystery, because at the crucial moment (thirty pages before the end of the book) Frost begins a marathon of telephoning that provides him with the information to solve the mystery. He gives this information and his hypothesis to Bautista, but not to the reader.

An unfortunate penchant of Murphy's is to reinforce the stereotypes of his minor characters: pompous publishers, pretentious academics, fussy librarians from the University of Tennessee and formerly promiscuous people with AIDS ("AIDS victims").

This MAY ALSO reinforce a double standard. Justice Ainslee "went to bed with anything that moved — female, of course," apparently acceptable behavior for great straight men. The gay research assistant with AIDS is described as "an indefatigable worker," but "unfortunately, what little time for recreation he had seemed to have been spent at the baths."

Murder Keeps a Secret is a good mystery that provides a night or two of pleasant reading. It can't meet any higher standard.
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**QUOTES**

"Grab me. It’s a hetero world."
- Pop star Madonna, to openly-gay New York City benefit for Brazilian rain-forest conservation groups.

"I felt like fucking Georgia O’Keeffe walking down the grand canyon of Fifth Avenue."
- Comedian Sandra Bernhard on the "desert smells" that came out of a rug she bought at the auction of Andy Warhol’s estate.

"I know we don’t have a cock, but at least I’m sure of all the things we got."
- Sandra Bernhard’s slightly-ALTERED lyrics to the Sonny and Cher standard “I Got You, Babe,” in a duet with Madonna. Bernhard grabbed her crotch as she sang the line, according to the Village Voice.

"Don’t believe the stories."
- Madonna, on reports that she and Sandra Bernhard are having an affair.

"Believe the stories."
- Sandra Bernhard.

"It is a sinful lifestyle, according to scripture. These people (homosexuals) must be helped to be delivered from the bondage [of their lifestyle]."
- [It is] interesting... what’s happening as AIDS 50 years ago, 100 years ago?"
- Charles Stanley, pastor of Atlanta’s First Baptist Church and former president of the 143-million member Southern Baptist Convention, on the idea of AIDS as divine punishment for homosexuality.

**Curtains**

*Night Mother*

Reviewed by JEFF ELLIS
Managing Editor

*NIGHT MOTHER*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by Mascha Norman, is a troubling experience, almost incridulable — but thanks to the acting of Mary Jane Harvill and Dorothy Marie and Jackie Welch’s taut direction, the play is brought close to the audience’s collection of heart — perhaps too close.

*Night Mother* opened last week as the initial offering of Tennessee Repertory Theatre’s Second Stage. TRT artistic director Mac Pirkle writes in the show’s program that Second Stage offers “a more intimate look at dramatic literature” and “an opportunity to get in touch with real issues in our community and in our lives.”

The inspiration? Norman’s suicide at the heart of *Night Mother* is suicide. Or so it seems at first. Delving more deeply into the play’s construction, it becomes apparent that it’s not just about suicide, but about any person’s struggles to escape the monotony of life, the doldrums of an existence that has become all too predictable.

I must admit that at the conclusion of last week’s opening night performance, my reaction to *Night Mother* was not good. Initially, I found Norman’s script rife with sentiment, to me, *Night Mother* was nothing more than a 90-minute suicide. Jessie was a quitter and a whiner — with an ingrown character. Jessie is in her 30s, has a teenaged son who’s in trouble. She doesn’t like her life and she doesn’t think it’s going to get any better. Jessie tells her mother that she’s going to commit suicide.

The older woman doesn’t seem much happier than her daughter. But she has sublimated any thoughts of despair and accepts things as they are. Naturally, she is horrified at her daughter’s declaration and so begins a night of painful revelations and touching confessions.

Mary Jane Harvill, as Jessie, gives a credible performance, building her characterization toward a riveting climax. As Mama, Dorothy Marie is splendid, eloquently giving voice to her character. JACKIE WELCH’S DEPT directional hand is evident throughout the performance, restraining the two actresses when needed, then giving them free rein as they hurtle toward the play’s dénouement.

*Night Mother* continues Sunday through Saturday night in some unannamed, vaguely Southern locale. Jessie is in her 30s, has epilepsy, is divorced and has a teenage son who’s in trouble with the law. She doesn’t like her life and she doesn’t think it’s going to get any better. Jessie tells her mother that she’s going to commit suicide.

"Hey, Chuck, meet Madonna ‘n’ Sandy!"

- Madonna, on reports that she and Sandra Bernhard are having an affair.

- Sandra Bernhard's slightly-ALTERED lyrics to the Sonny and Cher standard "I Got You, Babe," in a duet with Madonna. Bernhard grabbed her crotch as she sang the line, according to the Village Voice.

- "Believe the stories."
- Sandra Bernhard.

- [It is] interesting... what's happening as AIDS 50 years ago, 100 years ago?"
- Charles Stanley, pastor of Atlanta’s First Baptist Church and former president of the 143-million member Southern Baptist Convention, on the idea of AIDS as divine punishment for homosexuality.

**Garden**

"I felt like fucking Georgia O’Keeffe walking down the grand canyon of Fifth Avenue."
- Comedian Sandra Bernhard on the "desert smells" that came out of a rug she bought at the auction of Andy Warhol’s estate.

"I know we don’t have a cock, but at least I’m sure of all the things we got."
- Sandra Bernhard’s slightly-ALTERED lyrics to the Sonny and Cher standard “I Got You, Babe,” in a duet with Madonna. Bernhard grabbed her crotch as she sang the line, according to the Village Voice.

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