**Is anyone coming out?**

No Tennessee plans

**by MARK LAWRENCE**

Staff Writer

The second annual National Coming Out Day is scheduled for Oct. 11, but there are no organized plans to commemorate the day in Tennessee.

Last year, Nashville organizers arranged a celebration and a symbolic protest in which same-sex couples applied for marriage licenses.

Penny Campell, one of the Nashville coordinators of last year’s protest in which same-sex couples applied for marriage licenses, said she knew of no such plans for this year. “I’m not involved in organizing anything this year,” she said. “I don’t know if anything is going on.”

Jacki Moos, owner of It’s A Scream in Nashville, said her shop will be selling the official NCOD t-shirts, but did not know of any planned activities. She added that her contacts have been with the NCOD offices in New Mexico, and she did not know of anyone involved in NCOD locally.

NCOD is held on Oct. 11 each year to commemorate the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The national organizers of the event provide t-shirts and other publicity and encourage local groups to organize activities in their areas.

“This is a grass roots campaign, and its success depends on the willingness of local groups to plan and carry out events that support people to take their next step in coming out,” said Rob Eichberg, co-chair of NCOD.

The theme of NCOD is “Take Your Next Step.” Organizers hope that activities will encourage individual lesbians and gay men to take the next step in the coming out process which is appropriate for that person. According to NCOD 

**National leaders call for sexuality info**

from STAFF REPORTS

A coalition of leading gay and lesbian civil rights groups and education organizations last week presented a special Senate and House staff briefing on the importance of providing students with positive information and counseling concerning their sexual identity.

The briefing comes in response to attacks in Congress against programs that educate and counsel youth on sexual identity, and to a recent Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) report that revealed gay and lesbian teenagers are significantly more likely to attempt suicide than other youth.

“We want to educate and inform Congressional staff on adolescent sexual identity issues and help dispel common misperceptions about gay and lesbian students,” said Tim McFeely, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF).

“Perceptions that young gays are ‘just going through a phase’ about their sexuality, are maladjusted and mentally ill or are ‘recruited’ into homosexuality are extremely dangerous to the health of American youth,” McFeely said. “These perceptions — combined with the lack of positive education programs on sexuality — fuel homophobia and gay and lesbian teenage alienation.”

Speakers at the briefing included Virginia Uribe, founder of Project 10, an innovative Los Angeles School District program that provides counselors, teachers and students with accurate information and counseling on issues of sexual identity; and Ann Thompson Cook, director of INSITE, the Institute of Sexual Inclusiveness Through Training and Education, an organization that provides comprehensive information about sexuality and health for youth and people who work with young adults.

Also speaking at the briefing were Daniel and Susan Cohen, co-authors of many books for teenagers, including the award-winning what you can believe about drugs and when someone you know is gay. Gay and youth advocates realized the need for a 

**Heart Strings**

Memphis and Nashville committees prepare

by JEFF ELLIS

**Editor**

**Heart Strings:** The National Tour, an effort to raise funds for AIDS services organizations throughout the country, will make stops in Tennessee next week with performances in Memphis and Nashville.

Sponsored by the Design Industries Foundation for AIDS (DIFFA), Heart Strings premiered Sunday night at Atlanta’s Fox Theatre prior to a nationwide tour that will take the 20 performers to 30 different cities during the next six months.

Memphis will be the third stop on the 30-city tour, with a performance set for Monday, September 25, at 8 p.m. in Vincent DeFrank Hall of Ellis Auditorium. Two local choirs will be featured during the evening’s entertainment which will benefit the Memphis AIDS Coalition and the Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC).

The cast will bring its Broadway-style musical revue to Nashville’s Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC) for a Thursday, September 28 performance in TPAC’s Polk Theatre. Several gospel choirs will participate along with Grand Ole Opry legend Minnie Pearl, Tom T. Hall, the Rev. Ed Sanders, Tennessee Repertory Theatre’s Mac Pirkle and singer/songwriter Janis Ian.

Ian, now a Nashville resident, jumped at the chance to perform her song “Stars” which is a part of the program, according to Mary Donnet, public relations specialist for the Nashville Steering Committee.

Benefiting from the Nashville performance are Minority AIDS Outreach (MAO), Nashville CARES and the Vanderbilt AIDS Project.

**HEARTSTRINGS: The National Tour**, which was first presented in 1987 and 1988 in Atlanta, raising more than $400,000 for DIFFA, which then allocated funds to local organizations.

DIFFA bears the cost of mounting the tour, estimated at some $40,000 per week. Founded in 1984, DIFFA is the only industry-based national AIDS foundation in the United States.

Among AIDS organizations, DIFFA is second only to the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR) in the amount of money raised for the AIDS cause. DIFFA has granted $2 million to over 150 organizations in the five years since its inception.

The Memphis AIDS Coalition has said that it expects to disburse its share of the donations through a series of grants to local organizations. ATEAC plans to use its share to expand services for persons with AIDS.

Nashville organizations have not 

**INSIDE Dare this week**

And the winner is... the First Night Theatre Awards. Centerpiece, page 6.


**Rights law vetoed**

MUSCATINE, Iowa — Mayor Don LeMar has vetoed a proposed gay rights ordinance for the town, but supporters say it may be passed again after the November mayoral election, according to THE WEEKLY NEWS.

City council members who supported the bill say LeMar vetoed it because he fears the opposition of local religious groups in the upcoming election. LeMar won the last election by 36 votes out of a population of 25,000.

"No one called saying that they were gay and that they supported the ordinance," said council member Larry Kemp.

In fact, both local officials and local media say that they do not know of anyone in Muscatine who is openly homosexual. The bill was proposed without any lobbying by lesbian or gay groups or individuals.

If the ordinance is passed, Muscatine would become only the second town in the state to have a statute barring discrimination against homosexuals.

**Seattle tries for partners benefits**

SEATTLE — A ruling that would have required employers to extend the same benefits to partners unmarried same-sex and opposite-sex couples as they currently give to spouses has been held up by tax problems.

The city's human rights department ruled in April that city fair-employment laws prohibit discrimination against unwed couples. If enforced, the ruling would make Seattle the first city ever to require private employers to extend benefits to employer's domestic partners, according to a report in OUT WEEK.

However, when Congress extensively changed the federal tax code in 1986, one of the new provisions was that employers must prove that benefits packages extend only to workers' spouses and legal dependents. Employers who do not meet these provisions are subject to additional taxes.

"It's all a big mess," said Sally Fox, Seattle city benefit manager. "It's an entirely impossible part of the tax regulations.

**AIDS inmates charge unfair care**

LOS ANGELES — The American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California has filed suit against the California Department of Corrections and the California Institution for Women on behalf of six women inmates who are being kept in a special AIDS Isolation Unit.

The ACLU says that the women in the unit receive inadequate medical and psychiatric care and are unlawfully kept in conditions of confinement and excluded from prison programs and services.

The unit is maintained exclusively for HIV-positive inmates. The women have only one toilet, one shower and one tub. There is no dining area, so that the inmates must eat on their beds.

Rebecca Jurado, an ACLU attorney, said the suit would "set a human and constitutional standard for the treatment of people with HIV infection throughout society.

**City refuses club; owner has gay bar**

DAYTON, OH — A nightclub owner claims the city turned down his plans for a new club, to be operated on city property, when officials discovered that he owns a club frequented by gays.

The city claims it stopped negotiations with him because of unfavorable police reports about the other bar.

Thomas Utterback, owner of a club called 1470 West, said the city's license problems at the club are a cover for officials' fears that the proposed new club would also attract lesbians and gay men. "They can't legally tell me that, but that's why they did it," said Utterback. The city's planning board originally backed his proposal to lease city property for a bar-and-dance club to be called Atmospheres.

Ray Reynolds, Dayton's urban development director, said a police review prepared for evaluation of the club's liquor licence showed "arrests for disorderly conduct and public intoxication to felonious assault" at 1470 West over the past year. However, the Ohio Department of Liquor Control said the club has no recent permit violations and there have been no objections to the annual renewal of its license.

**Peek-a-boo II**

NEW YORK — Out Week, the lesbian and gay news magazine that garnered attention for publishing "Peek-A-Boo," a list of supposedly closeted homosexuals, has published "Peek-A-Boo II," which is apparently a continuation of the list.

The list is attributed to "the Out Week staff and various contributors," and includes celebrities such as Richard Chamberlain, Dolly Parton, and Lily Tomlin, and married couples Julie Andrews and Blake Edwards, and Diane Sawyer and Mike Nichols.

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Auditions set for VAP benefit

from STAFF REPORTS

Auditions for the Epiphany Players' production of Henrik Ibsen's GHOSTS will be held Saturday, September 23, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. and Monday, September 25, from 7 to 9 p.m. in Moorman Auditorium, 20th and Grand Avenues in Nashville.

Epiphany Players, an ecumenical community drama group, is producing GHOSTS as a fund-raising benefit for the Vanderbilt AIDS Project (VAP). The social stigma and fear that these characters in Ibsen's character-driven piece, written in 1881, face in being confronted with syphilis, at that time an incurable disease, parallel the struggles faced by persons living with AIDS.

In addition to raising money for AIDS research," said director Elizabeth Parker. "We hope that gnostics can enable us to take a clearer look at our response as individuals to the AIDS crisis."

Parker's cast calls for three men and two women. One man and one woman should be young (20-30 age range), the others middle-aged (40-50).

More information is available by phoning Parker at (615) 329-2171.

LEADERS CALL FOR SEXUALITY INFO

• continued from page 1

greater awareness of gay and lesbian youth issues when, during last year's debate on the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill, Sen. Gordon Humphrey (R-N.H.) offered an extremely anti-gay amendment aimed at students.

The amendment, killed in committee, attempted to ban funding for school districts when materials, curricula or programs "promote or encourage homosexuality" or use words stating that homosexuality is "normal," "natural" or "healthy."

In a letter to President George Bush, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) sharply challenged Rep. William Dannemeyer's (R-Calif.) attempts to repudiate sections of the HHS report that addressed gay and lesbian youth suicide issues.

"The HHS report correctly identified the special vulnerability of gay and lesbian youth to suicide. By urging the President to ignore this tragic situation, Dannemeyer shows his true colors as a cold-blooded bigot who supports the senseless destruction of gay youth and lesbian lives. We are also outraged by his false and pernicious claims about "homosexual recruitment among youth," said Urvashi Vaid, executive director of NGLTF.

In her letter to Bush, Vaid urged the President to choose "moral leadership" over "prejudice and moral posturing," and to vigorously implement the recommendations.

Vaid blasted Dannemeyer for setting up a "false dichotomy" between family values and measures to deal with lesbian and gay youth suicide. In her letter to Bush, she said, "We at NGLTF believe...as we hope you do, that suicide and violence are not family values. We believe that when sexual minority youth attempt to succeed in destroying their lives, families are undermined rather than strengthened."

During the briefing for Senate and House staffers, presenters said getting positive information to gay and lesbian youth is important because:

• gay teenagers are two to three times more likely to attempt suicide;
• one in four gay male teenagers is forced prematurely out of their home due to issues surrounding their sexual orientation;
• many gay youth turn to substance abuse or become homeless, often subjecting themselves to greater risk of contracting AIDS;
• without proper education and counseling, heterosexual students receive misinformation concerning sexual identity that may lead to verbal or physical abuse of gay and lesbian students.

TRASH

• continued from page 9

I had a certain eye out for anti-male bias all through the book but didn't find much of it. Female characters are much to the fore, but didn't find much of it. Female characters are much to the fore, but didn't find much of it. Female characters are much to the fore.

In "The Meanest Woman Ever Left Tennessee," the title character is Great-Grandma Shirley, who "never wanted children anyway and just let the way her own body continuously swelled and delivered. She called the children devils and worms and trash, and swore that, like worms, their natural substance was dirt and weeds."

"Great-Grandma was not exactly an earth mother. Mama was, though, within her limitations, as the rather predictable "Mama" makes clear. The religious note no Southern book can be without is sounded in "Gospel Song," which recounts the bizarre death by fireball of an ugly, misfit child and which has a touch of Faulkner to it. And the equally essential Southern stomach is treated in the delightful "A Lesbian Appetite," in which the author muses, "I remember women by...what they dug out of the freezer after we'd made love for hours. I've only had one lover who didn't want to eat at all. We didn't last long," I should think not."

In her preface, Allison tells at length of her coming to terms with her background, obviously at once her artistic material and her private hell. In the process, she seems to have passed through a period when she could have written the book I expected to find: "Throughout that time I told stories — mostly true stories about myself and my family and my lovers in a drawl that made them all funnier than they were."

But early attempts at getting them down on paper were "bitter. I could not recognize myself in that bitchy, whiny, hateful voice telling over all those horrible violent memories."

Fortunately for both reader and writer, a synthesis emerged — "I put on the page a third look at what I've seen in life — the condensed and reinvented experience of a cross-eyed working class lesbian, addicted to violence, language and hope, who has made the decision to live, is determined to live, on the page and on the street, for me and mine." TRASH is a fine example of the success of that determination.

Winner and 1st runner-up will qualify for Miss Tennessee USA, to be held in February, 1990

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**...Heart Strings on the way**

- continued from page 1
- yet determined what their funds will be allocated.

The 30-city tour will take the cast from Atlanta to Dallas, from Denver to San Francisco, eventually concluding in New York City next spring. The goals of the tour are:

- to mobilize all sectors of the community in the fight against AIDS.
- to raise $4 million across the country for preventive education and direct care services.
- to develop lasting fund-raising skills in local communities.
- to encourage volunteerism.
- to raise public awareness of the AIDS epidemic.

The show's two acts are comprised of a series of narratives, followed by music and dance. A core group of professional performers make up the cast, with local performers also taking part in the show, Donnent explained.

Among performers in the touring company are Eve Willis, who gave up a chance to tour Europe in *Dreamgirls* in order to participate, and John Worrell, who was discovered while working at a Los Angeles diner, Johnny Rocket's.

Performing for a purpose keeps people focused on "what we can do for others, rather than what we are getting out of this," said cast member Eric Paepker.

During the six-month, the cast will log approximately 25,000 miles on the road.

Those miles will be particularly significant for cast member Sam Baker, who came to the Atlanta auditions in 1987 a virtual unknown, ultimately becoming an audience favorite. He is battling cancer and is making the tour despite his illness.

"If my voice can be a catalyst for someone to give one more dollar, then it's worth it," Baker said.

More information on the Memphis performance is available by phoning (901) 726-HOPE. In Nashville, phone (615) 385-0140.

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**...Tennessee's not coming out**

- continued from page 1
- co-chair Jean O'Leary, 'NCOD is a chance to take the spirit and message of the March on Washington home to communities throughout the country.

In Tennessee, the first NCOD was commemorated by a protest in which 10 same-sex couples went to the Metro Nashville clerk's office to apply for marriage licenses, in protest of a ruling by former State Attorney General Mike Comy which said that the state does not legally recognize same-sex relationships.

The group was sponsored by the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

The clerk's office was notified in advance of the protest, and the couples were all politely refused licenses and given copies of the ruling.

That night, a celebration of the day was held at the Gas Lite Lounge.

Nationally, the first NCOD received coverage in a variety of media, including USA TODAY, National Public Radio and the Cable News Network.

The show's two performances are comprised of a Tennessee classic tale of Gypsy Rose Lee. The production, which premieres in New York after a national tour, opened this spring in Chattanooga.

Peter Shaffer's London superhit, *Lettuce and Loveage*, after many trials and tribulations, finally debuts in New York after almost a year's delay. Maggie Smith and Margaret Tyack recreate their roles.

Multi-talented award winner Tommy Tune has workshopped with his own *HOTEL* into a musical with a score by Robert Wright, George Forrest and Luther Davis. Set in a posh international hotel in 1920s Berlin, the workshop casting has included Karen Akers and Liliane Montevicchi (both of NINE), Keene Curtis (La Cage aux Folles), Jane Krakowski (Starlight Express) and David Carroll (Chess). The final cast is currently in rehearsals for an early-winter opening.

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**New theatre season arrives**

by JEFF ELLIS

Editor

Tommy Tune's return to Broadway in an eagerly-awaited musical, *Vanessa* Redgrave in an acclaimed production of a Tennessee Williams work and the 30th anniversary production of a musical comedy classic which started its pre-Broadway tour in Chattanooga, are all a part of an eagerly awaited New York theatre season.

What promises to be the theatrical event of the year is the Broadway run of Tennessee Williams' *Orpheus Descending*, starring Vanessa Redgrave. Directed by Sir Peter Hall, recently retired director of Britain's National Theatre, the play is a tale of seething tensions and smoldering sexuality set in a small Southern town, focusing on a lonely immigrant woman who finds herself increasingly drawn to a handsome, innocent youth.

The Brecht-Weill classic the *ThreePenny Opera*, starring rock star Sting in the role of MacHeath, bows in New York this season with direction by Tony winner John Dexter (M. Butterfly) and choreography by Peter Gennaro (Annie).

Emmy award-winning Tyne Daly claims the role of Mama Rose as her own in the 30th anniversary production of *Gypsy*, the Jule Styne-Stephen Sondheim-Arthur Laurents classic tale of Gypsy Rose Lee. The production, which premieres in New York after a national tour, opened this spring in Chattanooga.

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**Thank you!**

[List of thank you notes]

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**Border to border, cover to cover.**

Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly

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QUILTER'S Sandra Tryon

A drama about the Nazi persecution of homosexuals and the musical re-telling of the life story of Argentina's Eva Peron claimed top honors Sunday night at the Dare First Night Theatre Awards, presented for the first time in a ceremony at Nashville's Z. Alexander Looby Theatre. Actor's Playhouse's production of Martin Sherman's BENT was named best play of the 1988-89 season, one of three awards claimed by the drama. Tennessee Repertory Theatre's critically-acclaimed staging of the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice opera EVITA, took the prize as the season's best musical.

"We found out just before the awards that today is the second anniversary of Actors' Playhouse," said Rick Harrell, who claimed the award for best actor in a play for his performance as Horst in BENT. "These three awards are wonderful anniversary presents."

Mel Toombs took the award for best supporting actor in a play for his role as Greta, the female impersonator/nightclub owner in BENT.

Ginger Newman's performance in the title role of EVITA earned her the award for best actress in a musical.

Actor's Playhouse claimed another award, bringing its overall total to four, when Siri, one of the stars of the company's WOMEN BEHIND BARS, was named best actress in a play.

The award for best actor in a musical was shared by Anthony Dickens, who starred as the King of Siam in Circle Players' production of THE KING AND I, and Joseph R. Mahowald, who won for TRT's CHRISTMAS MEMORIES.

The Mahowald household accounted for two awards Sunday as Elizabeth Moses Mahowald took the prize as best supporting actress in a play for her performance as Chelsea in Chaffin's Barn's production of ON GOLDEN POND.

Martha Gabel, a double finalist during Sunday night's ceremony, was named best supporting actress in a musical for her role in PIPPIN for Circle Players. Gabel also performed during the ceremony with the AVANTE GARAGE comedy troupe and she closed the evening with a stunning performance of "I Dreamed A Dream" from LES MISERABLES.

Thom Byrum, who was named best supporting actor in a musical for his performance as Lun Tha in THE KING AND I, also performed during the 90-minute long show, singing two Jerry Herman songs.

Special awards went to Greg Armbruster and Judy Eron for the BUSINESS OF MARRIAGE, their original musical which had its premiere last
spring in a Gallatin Arts Council production; and to Michael Bouson and Joe Correll, who conceived and directed AVANTE GARAGE, which has been playing since 1985.

The business of marriage was represented by Susanna Rainear, performing "That's What People Mean" from the show's score. The seven-member AVANTE GARAGE troupe (featuring Lari White, Mike Norman, Bill Hood and Phil Perry, in addition to Bouson, Correll and Gabel) entertained with selections from their current I LOVE NASHVEGAS show.

Rona Carter opened the evening's entertainment with the show-stopping "I Just Want To Be A Star" from the Chaffin's Barn production of NUNSENSE. Other highlights included White singing "Maybe Forever" from the Tennessee Performing Arts Center's world première production of A ROCK WEDDING; Cindy Graves performing "I've Got Love" from the musical FUTURE, the cast of Nashville Public Theatre's forthcoming production of QUILTERS; and Rusel Brown in the première of a performance art work, "Fever-blue Violets."

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It was a very successful evening. The show could not have been better and the whole production went much more smoothly than we expected," Ellis said. "We've already begun work on next year's show and I feel certain it will be a rousing smash."

The ceremony was followed by a post-Awards celebration honoring award winners at the Bristol Bar and Grille in Nashville's Church Street Centre. Other businesses providing special promotional assistance were Forrest Allen Tile Company, Bittner's Formal Wear and Michael's Flowers and Gifts.

Ellis said that efforts to secure two Broadway stars to serve as honorary co-chairs for next year's event will probably be successful.

"Actually, we already have tentative commitments from two celebrities who are active in fund-raising for AIDS organizations and outspoken proponents of the lesbian and gay civil rights movement," Ellis said. •
STEPHEN SONDHEIM and James Lapine's INTO THE WOODS takes some very familiar material — childhood fairy tales — gives them a decidedly contemporary twist and answers the musical question, "What happens after happily ever after...?"

The result is a superb evening of theatre — a melodious, often funny and always intriguing experience.

And, in many ways, it could well be considered the first post-nuclear fairy-tale musical.

Using those familiar stories from our childhoods as the springboard for their plot, Sondheim and Lapine have succeeded in creating a fairy-tale world for adults, not the ribald versions seen in humor magazines, but instead fairy tales that are peopled by very human characters.

The multi-dimensional residents of this fairy-tale land may have familiar names — Cinderella, Rapunzel, Little Red Ridinghood — but as they go into the woods, they are stripped of their literary reputations, and are thus made much more accessible to a contemporary audience.

In the musical telling of the stories, Sondheim's score resonates with a deep warmth, ideally paired with lyrics that retain a modern edge despite the timeless rhymes and a cynicism that makes the often-told fairy tales parables for modern living. If there is one thing disappointing about this score, it is that there are no songs that break out of the show's context to stand on their own. Certainly, the show is lushly scored and beautifully lyrical, but unfortunately, all the songs need the show's narrative thread to succeed.

The show's finale, "Children Will Listen" is a stunning work, both musically and lyrically complex. Performed by the entire company, it's an anthem of revelation, a hymn of hope.

Those characters are brought amazingly to life by a company of talented actors who delight the audience with their witty performances.

Earning the loudest ovations from the opening-night audience were Tracy Katz as the deadpan, acerbic Red Ridinghood, and Chuck Wagner (a Gallatin native) in the dual role of the Wolf and of Cinderella's Prince Charming. Both approached their roles seriously, giving us multi-dimensional performances that are enlivened by warmth, humor and risk-taking.

Mary Gordon Murray was superb as the Baker's Wife, breathing into her character a lust for life, a humanity that transcends the script's requirements. Her voice was exquisite, her portrayal gently moving.

Betsy Joslyn, who brings to life her character's metamorphosis from frightening hag to beautiful woman, performs with a zealous energy that's infectious and entertaining.

INTO THE WOODS transcends the limitations of fairy tales, however, with the second act interpretation of what happens after happily ever after. According to Lapine, what happens is the all-too-real realization that dreams can indeed come true and that often-times what we wish for is not what we really want.

In essence, the heroines and heroes of our favorite childhood tales are just like everyone else, although they had to deal with dragons and giants falling out of the sky.

If all this seems improbable — and, on paper, it does sound more far-fetched that it does amid the magical trappings of the stage — it is saved by the musical score and Lapine's expertly-drawn characterizations.

If all this seems improbable, it is saved by the musical score and by Lapine's expertly-drawn characterizations.

SEPTEMBER 22-28, 1987


reviewed by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

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Catching wind of genius

reviewed by GEORGE GRAHAM
Special to Dare

The Wind Spirit is Michel Tournier's autobiography, but for me it also served as an introduction to a prominent contemporary French writer. Though billed as an autobiography, the book might also be described as a collection of essays.

Born in France in 1924, Tournier gives the reader a sense of growing up in France as it readied for war. He also offers some fresh insight into life during and following World War II. In the early essays of the book, Tournier describes his environment to a greater extent than his personal development.

The remainder of the essays describe his professional journey and his philosophical evolution. Tournier studied Germanistik at Tübingen directly following the war. A Frenchman studying German in a German university after World War II was less than a popular choice. It was downright iconoclastic. But this act was the beginning of a series, most of the rest of which are his novels.

He takes several essays to lay out the thoughts behind his novels, such as FRIDAY, his version of ROBINSON CRUSOE as told through the eyes of Crusoe's servant. He also details a novel about a set of identical twins, their relationship with each other and with a gay uncle and his lover. For those familiar with Tournier, I am sure these chapters will be invaluable. He reduces plots to simple formulas, then redevelops them while offering heaps of critical background.

The book is clearly aimed at those familiar with his work. I must admit I am not, but THE WIND SPIRIT still contains much truth, whether in his definition of myth as a fundamental story or his formula for education: "Education = initiation + instruction."

Though these concepts appear simple, they are developed in a way which relates his thinking to his characters. Like other matters of his personal life, sexuality is never mentioned. Perhaps it is assumed. Some of his characters, like Oseni, deal heavily with homosexuality. On the whole, I would have liked to have known more about his personal life.

As an introduction to the work of Michel Tournier, however, the wind spirit performs admirably. I now want to delve into his work and am dazzled by his command of metaphor to describe his beliefs, such as his thoughts on genius.

"Everyone has genius," he writes. "Which is not one huge gem but a scintillating diamond dust scattered over all mankind." I hope this is the case. At any rate, I believe this act blows a little of Tournier's genius onto anyone who reads the book.

Taking in Trash

reviewed by FRANK ASHE
Special to Dare

There is a wide difference between camp and sarcasm. Camp is allied to farcé and is essentially affectionate and accepting, while sarcasm represents a critical, complex and perhaps basically negative sense of the comic.

I could probably have told you that even before I picked up Dorothy Allison's autobiographical fiction anthology TRASH, but the book made me discover it all over again.

I expected a campy autobiographical romp through the Southern backwoods, a sort of delightfully dykey DUKES OF HAZZARD. What I got instead was a tour of the same regions somewhat on the Flannery O'Connor plan, fueled by equal parts honesty, artistry and rage. (The latter is only occasionally identifiable as the gay variety.)

Allison is brutal in dissecting and (which is much rarer in modern fiction) judging the often brutal lives of her characters, those whom the polite, middle-class world would undoubtedly call trash. At the same time, she never ceases to convey the shallowness of that epithet when applied to a people she deeply understands and, within bounds, obviously loves.

The book's provocative title is a sarcasm of the sublest kind.

The first story, "River of Names," is about child rape and early death. In bed with her middle-class lover, the narrator muses over events she cannot tell and cannot forget, cousins (including one male) maimed, violated, dead. "With the prick still in them, the broom handle, the tree branch, the greasy gun...whiskey bottles, can openers, grass shears, glass, metal, vegetables...not to be believed, not to be believed."

"You tell the funniest stories," the lover says.

"Yeah," is the reply, "but I lie."

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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24
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1ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Doors open at 6
Buffet
Festivities begin at 8:30
Shows by
CARMELLA MARCELLA GARCIA
MINNIE SQUIRREL
GREG WALTERS
Performances by
TENNESSEE DANCE THEATRE
RANDY WILLIAMS
DIANA HUTTON
plus GCN Awards Ceremony
Emcees for the evening
MARTHA BICKLEY and KEN MELTON

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1
Warehouse 28 is proud to host
Candy Jo Productions'
1ST MISS GAY NASHVILLE USA PAGEANT
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emcee DIANA HUTTON
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MONICA MUNRO
and FLAWLESS

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**VIEWS**

*See Heart Strings*

**DO YOU HAVE your tickets yet?**

HEARTSTRINGS: The National Tour will make two Tennessee stops, in Memphis next Monday and in Nashville next Thursday.

Heartstrings promises to be quite a show, with Broadway-style performances from a whole passel of talented actors, singers and dancers. On top of that, it will definitely be one of the year's social highlights in both cities.

If those weren't reasons enough to grab the phone and order your tickets, consider this: more than 100,000 Americans, including more than 600 Tennesseans, have been diagnosed with AIDS.

Their care, seriously neglected by both the federal government and our own shamefully-bigoted state government, has fallen onto the caring shoulders of private, volunteer-based organizations, most of which were initially founded by, and continue to be supported primarily by members of the lesbian and gay community.

Those groups desperately need your help to raise the money that provides support staff, office space, counseling and education to help people with AIDS, people with ARC, those who are HIV-positive, and those most in danger of contracting AIDS.

**HEARTSTRINGS** is a simple, easy and fun way to help find solutions to the most devastating health crisis of our time. Simply by buying a ticket, you can, with very little effort, be a part of that solution.

The touring show is the only entertainment extravaganza of its kind, a national outpouring of hope for a brand new day when AIDS is no more. Give heartstrings your support.

Time is running out. •

**SOAPBOX**

*Sticking up for Barney*

by CAROLE CUNNINGHAM

Sad Whine

**NEWS THAT THE House of Representatives’ ethics committee had been asked by Rep. Barney Frank, an openly-gay Massachusett-Democrat, to investigate his dealings with a male prostitute he once paid for sex and later hired as his personal assistant, sent shock waves through Capitol Hill and through the gay and lesbian community nationwide.

Almost two years ago, the Massachusetts Democrat made an historic coming-out announcement to the press, making him the first member of Congress to announce he was gay in apparently scandal-free circumstances. Rep. Gerry Studds of Connecticut had previously acknowledged his homosexuality, but only after being exposed in a sex scandal involving a male Congressional page.

Since declaring himself proudly gay, Barney Frank has become something of a national hero to the gay and lesbian community for his honesty, his openness and his unflagging devotion to a broad range of liberal causes. His reputation in Congress as an intelligent, articulate and persuasive partisan of Democratic causes remained virtually unshaken after his disclosure. If anything, his colleagues sang his praises with even more enthusiasm, saluting now his personal courage as well as his political commitment.

In the weeks since Frank announced that he had dismissed his personal assistant after discovering the man was running a prostitution ring from Frank’s Washington home, gays and lesbians seem to have breathed a collective sigh of despair that the golden child of the gay community could have shown such poor judgment and such glaring disregard not only for his own reputation but for his place in national politics as the icon of gay success and perversion-free gay decency.

And so I have watched acquaintances, friends and strangers roll their eyes over Frank’s recent admission and hang their heads in gloom while pointing at the scandalous headlines exposing Frank’s poor, but oh-so-human, judgment.

Understanding reactions, perhaps, if the majority of those bemoaning Frank’s behavior were themselves in some case still too safe, unimpeachable position from which to render judgment. But in fact, many of those walling

lostand in the privacy of their living rooms are those who shrink the most from any kind of disclosure about their own private lives, who speak loudly and carry a big stick when it comes to bashing the misbehaviors of “out” political gays and lesbians, but who recoil from any situation or person who might demand that they take a step in the “out” direction pioneered by Barney Frank.

Frank is free game for the press and his community now, not because he’s been hiding his private life, but because he has been willing to expose it. His apparent, and I hope only temporary, fall from grace has been possible only because he has refused to lie or hide himself in shame. He has shouldered the responsibility of being a public representative of gays and lesbians with grace and humility, only to be turned into a pariah by those who hoisted him into that position so their own privacy and personal dramas could remain their own.

But neither Frank nor any other individual man or woman should have to shoulder the responsibility for maintaining our community’s collective pride or for being the solitary example of a politician or professional who is both “out” and “successful.” That Frank’s alleged indiscretion has generated such angst among politicians and closeted gays and lesbians alike is testimony not to the gravity of Frank’s situation but to the paltriness of our own public representation.

FRANK WAS HAILED last October 11 during National Coming Out Day for some of the very qualities that have now cast a pall on his future because he has been brave enough to stick to his principles with consistency rather than convenience. This Coming Out Day, I think our community owes Barney Frank a favor. And every one of us owes him that favor because each of us is in debt for having allowed him to stand alone on Capitol Hill, alone in front of the press, alone before accusers, detractors and talk show hosts to speak for our deadly-silent majority.

So if you have nothing to say for yourself, remember October 11 what Barney Frank has said for you. Remember his public heroism with an act of private heroism. Do something different. Do something for you. Do something for all of us. But do the right thing. •
Defending the tasteless

by JIM ROCHE
Contributing Writer

JESUS IN A JAR OF PISS? Well, I'll admit it's hard for some to defend, but believe me, we as a community and as individuals had better defend it.

Regrettably, the lesbian and gay community doesn't seem to realize yet that this threat Jesse Helms has made to art through his amendment isn't just limited to curtailing the freedom of speech of artists.

It's a direct attempt to establish a national code of decency which, in Helms' own words, would restrict funding to any organizations that "promote, disseminate or produce obscene or indecent materials, including but not limited to depictions of sadomasochism, homosexuality, the exploitation of children, or individuals engaged in sex acts; or materials which denigrates the objects or beliefs of the adherents of a particular religion or nonreligion."

In other words: any museum, gallery, arts, dance, theatre or similar program that gets federal funds would have to ask itself if whatever project it is involved with promotes or disseminates homosexuality. If it did, or might be seen to, is it worth the risk?

There are a lot of questions here: what is art? Should the government be involved in the arts? Who makes these decisions?

But all of them can be put aside because it comes down to this: few arts programs would exist without some federal aid and if your aid is threatened because of your program's connections with homosexuality, sexual reality, artists, directors, themes, topics and sensibilities then your whole program is threatened.

If only one program is hurt by this legislation, the result is censorship of all. Fear will see to that. Jesse Helms has found yet another weapon to use against his favorite target. This time, unashamedly, the rest of congress, a weapon to use against his favorite target. This time, unashamedly, the rest of congress, a weapon to use against his favorite target. This time, unashamedly, the rest of congress, a weapon to use against his favorite target.

Before he broke the law of his country he was a social pest, a center of intellectual corruption. He was one of the high priests of decadent culture and intellectual debauchery.

A FEW PHOTOS. A jar of piss.

This may not all seem too serious or personal to you, but wait until Helms tries to take away the fourth class mailing rate from your favorite gay magazine, your local lesbian and gay paper, or takes away the tax-exempt status from your local community center, stops a gay pride parade or refuses to let you have your picnic in a public park because of these activities, one way or another use federal funds.

That's where Jesse Helms is going with this. Make no mistake about that. And he has to be stopped. Now. Write to your representatives in Washington. Speak out.

Helms wants to run another phobic piece of legislation up the flagpole to see who salutes, and with the help of George Bush, if we aren't careful, everybody might, because it will be illegal not to. •

Heart Strings: A Musical Evening Of Hope For The Healing Of AIDS

Heart Strings: The National Tour is coming to Nashville for one night only, Thursday, September 28, at 7:30 p.m., at the Polk Theatre in the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. Special Guest Stars Minnie Pearl, Janis Ian, Rosanne Cash, Tom T. Hall, the Rev. Ed Sanders, Mac Pirkle and more will join the musical revue which benefits Nashville CARES, Minority AIDS Outreach, and the Vanderbilt AIDS Project. Regular tickets: $25 through TICKETMASTER. Ticket plus pre-show buffet and post-show champagne cast party: $50. Ticket plus cast party: $50. Call (615) 385-0140 for special tickets and information.

Call TICKETMASTER at (615) 741-2787 for your tickets today.

Heart Strings: The National Tour is a project of DIFTYA, Design Industries Foundation for AIDS.

Talk About AIDS

Heard Much About AIDS Lately?

Barbara: Ask me if I've heard anything else.

Do your friends talk about AIDS?

Barbara: No. I guess it embarrasses them.

Does it embarrass you?

Barbara: AIDS isn't exactly party conversation.

No, it's not. But how can we prevent AIDS if we can't even talk about it?

Barbara: But how do you talk to someone about AIDS?

Just like this.
MARKET

Announcements
- New lesbian and gay community meeting space needs interior decoration: chairs, lamps, tables, artworks, mirrors, bookshelves, rugs, ceiling fans. New or used. Nashville. Call GALLIP 615 297-0008.

RELATIONSHIP STRUGGLES? New audiocassette gives support and steps to resolve conflict. Based on bestseller LESBIAN COUPLES. $11.85 postpaid to Seal Press, 3131 Western, #410, Seattle, WA 98121.


WANTED: Reliable, hardworking self-starters in Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis for commissioned ad sales. Great part-time, high-pay work for students, etc. 615 327-Dare.

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

LONG HOURS, HARD WORK, LOW PAY. Dare is accepting applications from writers in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville, the Tri-cities and around Tennessee. Learn community-oriented journalism, and be one of the best. Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone 615 327-Dare.

HOMES

- Urban contemporary 2BR/1.5B in Nashville's Historic Edgefield. Shady yard, front porch swing; vaulted ceilings, skylights, ceiling fans, hdw fns. WD Heips, refrigerato, stove, water incl. $450/mo. 615 262-4219.

- GWM seeks M roommates for quiet 2-bdrm townhouse near West End. $225 mo + 1/2 utilities. Nashville. 615 383-2883.

PERSONAL
- Bev. Hi, honey, how are you? I miss you. Let's get together and gossip. Your favorite former decorator.

- Mr. B., you'd better watch throwing that word "perfect" around. We prefer "nearly-perfect." What can I say? I still love you. Spitter.

- C, you're so Megamart and I'm so Kruger-dumb. What can I say? I still love you. Spitter.

- Mr. B., you'd better watch throwing that word "perfect" around. We prefer "nearly-perfect." What can I say? I still love you. Spitter.

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OFFICE USE ONLY

SOAP STAR JOANNA JOHNSON—DARE FILE PHOTO

And we're all afraid of you, Zsa Zsa

"Small talk is hard enough when you have to do it. Don't overextend yourself. Besides, important conversations are one way to tell the dykes/gay women from the girls/wimmin."

- Liz Tracey in "How to Cruise Girls."

"The main reason I am running is to make a point. Every gay person in the United States has a duty to stand up and say, 'Enough is enough.'"

- Attorney James Fallon, candidate for the Fremont, Calif., city council, where openly-gay school board President Bob Stipicevich is facing a recall effort.

I'm afraid that many of you have gotten carried away. We promised you something we can't deliver.

Despite all the hype, and all the anticipation in the room, Or­rin Hatch and I have decided that we will not—and I repeat—we will not... close the show by looking into each other's eyes and singing, "I Got You Babe."

- U.S. Senator Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) closing "A Night to Unite," a fund-raiser to benefit children with AIDS. Hatch and Metzenbaum are co-sponsors of the Washington, D.C., event.

"Really, young gays and lesbians are the children of the community. Do you know where your 'children' are? Well, they're sitting in the bathrooms of bars... You aren't teaching us 'pride' and 'stability,' you're raising another addictive and suppressed society.

Stonehawl? Yeah, that is like a highball!"

- K.T. Slaughter, 18, in a guest editorial of Atlanta's SOUTHERN VOICE.

"We're no longer passive; we're pro-active. We're aggressively telling people to take the test; there are preventive measures that can be taken. People don't have to get sick... Finally, for the first time in the gay community, there is a little light at the end of the tunnel."


"I am outraged by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling which permits burning the American flag as an expression of free speech. I would prefer a statutory remedy to protect the flag, rather than adoption of a Constitutional Amendment."


"Tom Duane could bring the district more energetic leadership, and we support him."

- A NEW YORK TIMES editorial endorsement of openly-gay city council candidate Tom Duane, described by the paper as "a stockbroker and a leader in the gay community." It marks the first time the TIMES has ever endorsed an openly-gay candidate for office.

"I'm afraid of lesbians."

- Celebrity jailbird Zsa Zsa Gabor, on why she fears being thrown into the slammer, to reporters outside the Los Angeles courtroom where she faced charges of striking a police officer. Gabor vowed she hasn't been licked yet!

"I also disagree with another recent Supreme Court ruling which allows dial-a-porn telephone tele­ography services to legally operate. A legislative remedy is presently being explored."


"See, it really didn't look much like me. It was a female impersonator."

- Soap opera star Joanna Johnson (Caroline on THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL) reacting to a billboard bearing her likeness which towers over the skyline of Athens, Greece, where the CBS show tops the viewer ratings. The billboard beckons customers to a nightclub which features female impersonators, according to TV GUIDE.

"How criminal of ABC to program the MOVIE "TWO LOVES" and WKRN-Channel 2 for showing it without first checking with a pastor."

"To think that the pastor was forced to watch the entire movie is disgraceful."

"That certainly couldn't have happened on WTVD-Channel 5. No sir. They, like the pastor, are true guardians of our moral integrity. They will only show what we need to see. That also applies for a certain theatre. I've often wondered if that also applies to the news department, but I'm sure they will tell us what we need to know.

"There are probably even people who would say that reading Jude 7 would be sickening. But what would they know about moral integrity? They only live by silly principles as 'live and let live' and 'judge not lest ye be judged.'"

- Nashville pastor Edward Richardson, in a letter to THE TIMES, responding to a letter from Mel Perry, anti-gay religious zealot and letter writer, who castigated ABC and Channel 2's decision to air MY TWO LOVES, a movie about a lesbian love affair.