Marchers want Housing NOW!

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sounding a call for affordable housing now and an end to homelessness, an estimated 100,000 marchers — including Hollywood celebrities, lesbian and gay activists and Tennessee advocates for the homeless — took to the streets of the nation's capital Saturday. In the largest demonstration for decent and fair housing since the civil rights marches of the 1960s, activists from throughout the country called upon the federal government to take the lead in providing adequate and affordable housing for all Americans, lambasting the Reagan and Bush administrations for their lack of action.

"History will record the 1980s as the decade in which the federal government withdrew its support for housing, the decade in which the decreasing availability and increasing cost of housing collided with declining incomes to produce the tragedy of homelessness in America," said James Moran, mayor of Alexandria, Va., representing the U.S. Conference of Mayors. His statement was echoed by Minnesota Gov. Rudy Perpich, who said "there can be no question about the need for increased federal housing efforts. We see the evidence on our streets and in our neighborhoods in every state and community."

An estimated 3 million Americans are homeless.

Among the more than 200 groups and organizations joining in co-sponsoring the three-day Housing Now! campaign were the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), AIDS Action Council (AAC), Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

NGLTF's Capitol Hill lobbyist, Peri Jude Radece, cited the frequent housing victimization of lesbian and gay adults as reasons for that group's participation.

"Lesbian and gay adults frequently become victims of anti-gay discrimination as tenants in private and public housing. Forced out of rental units by landlords or harassment until they move, lesbians and gay men go largely unprotected by fair housing laws at the federal, state and city levels," Radece said.

"The AIDS Action Council is here today to address the considerable problem of the growing numbers of PWAs who are homeless."

Project Inform, a San Francisco-based AIDS activist group, recently announced that, although results of their independent and unsanctioned study of Compound Q were promising, they do not recommend widespread use of the experimental drug.

According to Project Inform officials, the community is strongly cautioned against "overselling the preliminary results of the study or using them to encourage community distribution of the drug. Since other hopeful therapies such as DDI are now becoming available, it makes the most sense to exhaust these other options first. Project Inform continues to discourage self-prescription and self-medication with Compound Q and asks that buyers' clubs refrain from distributions or importation."

Gene Copello, director of the Vanderbilt AIDS Project and past president of the International Society for AIDS Education, said that he is unaware if there is any underground use of Compound Q in Tennessee and that there is no local study of the drug.

"There was some interest in Compound Q and other similar drugs in the beginning, but since the results of the studies have proven less than overwhelmingly positive, this interest seems to have fallen by the wayside," Copello said.

Copello added that, although he is concerned about the effectiveness and possible inaccuracy of such underground studies, he wholeheartedly understands why people would want to participate in them and why people find them necessary.

"No one would deny anyone the opportunity to do something they feel would help them, but at the same time, we need to be sure that we are not being exploitative," Copello explained.

Responding to the slow drug approval process by the

Activists advise not using Compound Q

by JACKI MOSS
Staff Writer

Independent study promising but inconclusive

ACT UP marches, zaps White House

AIDS activists stop traffic, demand action

by MARK LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Members of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) staged a "die-in" in front of the White House Saturday and then marched to join the Housing NOW! rally at Capitol Hill. The protestors were calling for more federal aid to provide housing for people with AIDS.

The group called for legislation to provide some $290 million for housing for people with AIDS in the 1990-91 budget, and for sweeping changes in the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines to ensure that PWAs are eligible for long-term housing assistance.

The protest began with approximately 100 people falling to the ground on Pennsylvania Avenue just outside the White House. Other demonstrators drew chalk outlines around the "dead" protesters.

President Bush, however, did not witness the events. He was spending the weekend at Camp David, the Presidential retreat.

After chanting slogans, including "History will recall, Bush did nothing at all," approximately 1,000 demonstrators marched from Pennsylvania Avenue onto 15th Avenue to join the Housing NOW! march that was already under way. They were followed by District of Columbia police and federal marshals in cars and on motorcycles. The last row of marchers joined hands to prevent the police from breaking up the march by driving through it.

At the front of the procession, marchers carried a black banner declaring "Homeless PWAs [sic]: Living with AIDS, being killed by gov't neglect ... Anger Into Direct Action." Other signs carried by marchers showed President Bush looking at his watch and said "It's time to keep the love alive."
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BRIEFS

Veteran activists join HRCF

WASHINGTON — The Human Rights Campaign Fund has hired three veteran activists to head the organization's constituent mail pressure program on the national, Midwest and Southeast levels.

Tacie Dejanikus, formerly the coordinator of the National Committee to Free Sharon Kovalski and an editor of the lesbian publication OFF OUR BACKS, was named HRCF National Field Manager. She will work to develop a nationwide infrastructure of local organizers, organize HRCF's new House Meeting Program, and work with lesbian and gay groups to generate mail and pressure.

Cathy Woodard, president of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU of Georgia, was appointed Field Coordinator for HRCF's Southeast Region, which includes Tennessee. Laurie Dittman, one of the recipients of the Chicago Bar Association's Humanitarian Award for her work in favor of the Human Rights Ordinance, was appointed Midwest Regional Field Coordinator.

Feds listen, arrest men on phone line

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Two Virginia men have been arrested for allegedly using a gay computer bulletin board to plan the kidnap, rape and murder of a boy for use in a pornographic video.

Dean Ashley Lamby and Daniel T. Tepew were arrested following a six-month investigation involving more than 100 FBI agents around the nation, according to the Guide to the Gay Northeast.

The investigation began when Lamby allegedly used the "Chaos" bulletin board to tell an undercover officer in San Jose, California, that he had discussed making a snuff film with Tepew.

Prosecutors say the two men planned to either purchase or kidnap a boy, film him having sex with them, and then strangle him. However, police say that the plans were never carried out, and no specific boy was ever targeted as the victim of the kidnapping.

Robert Rhodes, a gay legal activist familiar with government sex entrapment schemes, said the evidence against the two is weak. "I suspect the reality quotient of this is extremely low," he said. "The defendants do not seem to have taken the actions which would have lifted this scheme out of the realm of fantasy and definitely placed it into the realm of a real project they were planning to undertake."*

500 protest Sec. 28

BRIGHTON, England — Five hundred lesbians and gay men marched in protest of Section 28, a law which bars local government from promoting homosexuality. The march was held last summer to mark the first anniversary of the law.

Activist Linda Pointing told protesters outside the Brighton Town Hall that she had "found incidents throughout the country where the local council has tried to use the Section to ban gay societies from college campuses or stop gay and lesbian cultural events."*

ABA hears lesbian attorney

WASHINGTON — Suzanne Bryant, a member of the board of the National Gay and Lesbian Law Association, testified before an American Bar Association committee in an attempt to have the Model Code of Judicial Conduct changed to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Bryant said there is an "epidemic of violence" against lesbians and gay men, but they "are often unwilling to report crimes because they fear they may, like rape victims, be victimized a second time by the judicial system."

The ABA is currently revising the code, which serves as ethical guidance for judges throughout the country.

Although the ABA passed a resolution favoring gay rights legislation last February, the draft of the revised code does not mention sexual orientation.

Graff leaves NGRA

WASHINGTON — Leonard Graff, legal director for National Gay Rights Advocates since 1982, has announced that he will be leaving the civil rights law firm in at the end of this year. After taking some time off to make plans for the future, Graff will take over the tax law practice of NGRA co-founder Donald Knautson.

"I will miss working with Leonard tremendously," said Jean O'Leary, NGRA executive director. "His expertise, legal guidance and forward-thinking strategy have moved National Gay Rights Advocates to a preeminent position in civil rights legislation. I am convinced that we have accomplished as much, as an organization and as a community, because of his dedication and commitment."*
ACT UP zap

- continued from page 1

- time to face the AIDS crisis," and asked for "Humane housing for people with AIDS.

- Several people carried cardboard tombstones with epitaphs such as "HIV+ homeless people can't wait 10 years" and "Dead from dirty politics."

- As they marched, protesters continued to chant, beginning with "Act up, fight back, fight AIDS," and then changing to "Housing, not shelter. AIDS won't wait." As the protesters passed the Ellipse, where the NAMES Project National AIDS Memorial Quilt was on display, they chanted "Hey-hey, ho-ho, AIDS phobia has got to go."

- As they approached the much larger group of marchers going to the Housing NOW! rally, the ACT UP group began to chant "AIDS housing is a right. Housing is a right." When they reached the edge of the other march, they stopped, but continued chanting.

...avoid Compound Q: Project Inform

- continued from page 1

- Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Project Inform conducted underground tests on the drug that in April showed some effectiveness against HIV-infected cells in test tubes. They say they consider the study's toxicity data on Compound Q to be fairly reliable at this early stage, but findings of the drug's effectiveness are less so, since early studies such as this do not use control groups as a point of comparison.

- According to Project Inform, the preliminary results of the tests did indeed show antiviral and immune-boosting treatment. The group's study indicated that of the 15 patients evaluable for p24 antigen levels (the only accepted measure of antiviral activity in AIDS), nine patients showed a sustained reduction averaging 50% compared with their antigen levels at the beginning of the treatment.

- A few other patients experienced short-term declines in p24 antigen, but the levels returned to baseline within three months. Researchers say that these results suggest that the use of the drugs has significant antiviral effects which is sustained after stopping treatment. Project Inform's medical director, Alan Levin, said these findings were particularly significant because they occurred in patients for whom AZT failed to control levels of p24 antigen.

- Immunological improvements were noted in 19 of 34 patients in the study, as well. Levels of T4 helper cells across the various study subgroups indicated a mean increase of 28%.

- While the results seem promising, significant toxicities to the central nervous system were noted in several patients ranging from temporary mild confusion, to a coma in one patient. One patient died during the study from aspiration and another died about six weeks later of uncertain causes.

- The most serious toxic side effects were documented in patients who had the lowest T4 helper cell counts and who had previous central nervous system problems or other previously noted problems related to brain activity.

- Compound Q, or GLO223 as it is officially named, is a purified protein extracted from a plant found in China.

- In April, University of California at San Francisco researchers announced that tests showed the drug could kill HIV-infected cells and ignore healthy cells in a test tube. Once word of the study became public, Compound Q hit the underground AIDS-therapy market and people began injecting it despite the lack of information on its effectiveness or potential danger.

- Project Inform's clandestine test was just one of about two dozen similar underground tests across the country designed to speed the process to find a cure for AIDS. There are also several FDA-sanctioned tests on Compound Q under way.

- Project Inform's test, which began May 24, was based on a protocol used by the FDA for another AIDS drug, using Compound Q that was identical to that used in FDA-approved tests.

- The volunteers, all men who had failed to respond to conventional AIDS therapy including AZT, were video-taped in the presence of a witness and an attorney stating that they entered the trial willingly. They were also asked to stop using any other approved or unapproved drugs.

- The 51 volunteers from New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Florida received a series of three small injections over a three-week period and were monitored for side effects and effectiveness of the drug during and after the study.

- According to critics of the study, some doses were as high as 17 times that administered in FDA-sanctioned tests. Detractors also condemn Project Inform for not first determining the safety of the drug before administering it to patients. Project Inform's supporters say that the study provided information on an AIDS drug study more quickly than ever before in the history of the epidemic.

- "Changes need to be made in the current drug testing system. I am in favor of the current system to study drugs and to bring them to market because it allows them to be tested for safety and effectiveness before subjecting people to them, but I do feel that the system needs to change to be more responsive to the crisis upon us," Copello said.

- "I think, too, that community-based studies should be explored more thoroughly and that these studies may help speed up the process. The major problems with the current system are regulatory, rather than locality of the study," he noted.
Dickson County preacher charged

by JEFF ELLIS

Indictments were returned in a Dickson County Court earlier this month in the case of an ex-convict turned preacher who was charged with multiple crimes against nature for having sex with male followers.

Jim Cater, pastor of the Church of the Living Word in Stayton, a small town just north of the Dickson County seat of Charlotte, was arraigned on 50 separate charges following a summer-long investigation by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), the local district attorney and the Dickson County Sheriff's Department. In addition to the crimes against nature charges, Cater is charged with aggravated sexual battery involving a 10-year-old boy and with various counts of violations of the state's drug and firearms laws.

In the indictments handed down by the Dickson County Grand Jury, Cater is charged with:
- 40 counts of crimes against nature involving Michael W. Brown, 24, a former member of the Church of the Living Word.
- One count of crime against nature involving Craig Nethery, 30, a former resident in the church's dormitory.
- Two counts of aggravated sexual battery involving an unnamed 10-year-old boy.
- One count of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.
- Five counts of possession of prescription drugs.
- One count of possessing a weapon with intent to go armed, a violation for a person previously convicted of a felony.

Records indicate that Cater has served time in Florida prisons for felony robbery and forgery convictions.

Charges against Cater on crimes against nature violations comes just weeks before sweeping changes in Tennessee's criminal code go into effect on Nov. 1. Under those changes, adopted by the state legislature earlier this year, the crimes against nature statute is struck from the books and is replaced by a same-sex sodomy statute.

Under the current law, crimes against nature are considered felonies, carrying possible sentences of 5-15 years in prison, plus stiff fines. The new law changes the felony level, thereby reducing possible sentences.

Evidence against Cater came from complaints filled by former members of the church and searches of its dormitories conducted by law enforcement authorities and the state department of human services.

Both Brown and Nethery made complaints against Cater, saying he forced them to engage in sexual activities under the guise of counseling.

Cater countered those charges by saying that both men had engaged in homosexual acts before coming to his church. Brown and Nethery admitted to other homosexual relationships during interviews with the "nashville banner.

Cater, known as "Papa" to his "church family," is being held on $150,000 bond.
They came from all over the country, perhaps from all over the world, to read the names—the names of their friends, their loved ones, their comrades—in a cathartic effort to rid themselves of the grief, of the tears, of the anger brought about by the foolish deaths of someone close by.

Some went to the Ellipse, within shouting distance of the White House, for yet another pilgrimage to view the mammoth NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, a delicately sewn-together tapestry of lives connected by a mysterious killer.

Others went to the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial, a strikingly somber expanse of black marble which seems to somehow rise from the ground while remaining firmly confined by it.

And while the people grieved separately—both at the Quilt and at the Memorial—they often grieved together, remembering someone who had fallen before, someone whose life was cut short by a mysterious and stealthy killer.

The AIDS epidemic has been viewed by many as a war of sorts, a constant battle against bureaucracy and bigotry. The Viet Nam conflict, misunderstood and constantly reinterpreted, presents a conundrum that same order.

The similarities of the two memorials are startling: name after name etched into the marble.

Pilgrims to both memorials may be seen quietly remembering a friendly face, reliving a hellish experience or exulting in the joys of better times and brighter faces.

As the years pass, pilgrims will continue to come, making their journey to Washington. They will come to the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial to touch the names etched into the marble.

They will go wherever the Quilt is unfurled, although from now on they will see smaller pieces—the Quilt's sheer enormity prohibiting future displays of the entire work. They will come to the NAMES Project to softly finger the folds of the fabric.

To recall and reminisce.
And to remember their names. •

Two visitors to the Quilt share a personal moment remembering loved ones.
RPIECE

their names

Actor Tom Hulse reading the names of those memorialized. — DARE PHOTO BY SUSAN BRUNINGA

A view from the top of the Washington Monument shows the NAMES Project Quilt nearly covering the Ellipse. — DARE PHOTO BY SUSAN BRUNINGA

Pearl and Stovia, members of the Short Mountain Sanctuary in Liberty, Tennessee. — DARE PHOTO BY SUSAN BRUNINGA

members of a loved one lost to AIDS. — DARE PHOTOS BY SUSAN BRUNINGA

COMING SOON

• GOOD FUN
• GOOD PEOPLE
• GOOD TIMES

JOURNEY

FOR THE FUN OF IT

• DANCING
• LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT

SOMETHING NEW
IN NASHVILLE’S
NITE LIFE
Gay troubadours to tour Tennessee

from STAFF REPORTS

Romanovsky and Phillips, the traveling troubadours of the gay experience, will visit three Tennessee cities during an upcoming tour of the Volunteer state.

Known primarily for their previous three albums — I Thought You'd Be Taller, Emotional Rollercoaster and Trouble in Paradise, Ron Romanovsky and Paul Phillips are currently on a 45-city tour throughout the United States.

"The hardest thing about touring, besides actually being on the road for an extended time, is killing time between cities, when you have four days off between concerts, finding a grocery store, the post office, things like that," said Romanovsky.

Last year, they played before appreciative Tennessee audiences and are expected to attract even more fans to their upcoming performances in Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville.

"I think this year, due to name recognition and word of mouth, we're going to have a good audience," said G. Scott Osten, whose production company, OSAT Productions, is mounting the duo's Nashville stand.

The pair's music has been called everything from folk to rock — and the duo have been labeled everything from "the gay Donnie and Marie" to "the gay Smothers Brothers" — although Romanovsky bristles when critics attempt to pigeonhole the pair's music.

"I have mixed feelings about being labeled folk singers. Lyrically, our music is like folk, I suppose, because it is music about a culture of a people. But musically, I think our material is more interesting," he explained.

"Interesting" might be the understatement of the decade when describing a musical repertoire that includes "Give Me a Homosexual" and "What Kind of Self-Respecting Faggot Am I?"

The Nashville show is Thursday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd. Tickets are $10 single, $18 couple. For information, phone (615) 269-4283.

The following night, Friday, Nov. 10, Romanovsky and Phillips will play the University of Tennessee Music Hall for a 8 p.m. show. Tickets are $9 in advance, $12 at the door. For details, call (615) 595-8686.

The Knoxville performance is being produced by Random Productions, in association with the University of Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Student Union.

Details on the Memphis performance, set for Monday, Nov. 20, have not been finalized. Call (901) 458-2457 for information.

CURTAINs

On their toes

1989 FALL SERIES. Nashville Ballet. Dane LaFontsee, artistic director.
Tennessee Performing Arts Center. October 6-7.

reviewed by GEORGE GRAHAM
Contributing Writer

NASHVILLE BALLET OPENED its fourth season last weekend with a program which showcased its verve and versatility.

The performance opened with THE HOLBERG SUITE, a piece set to the music of Edvard Grieg and originally choreographed for the company by Edward Myers. The men's ensemble accomplished a lightness not commonly seen among male dancers. Also outstanding was Keith Schaeffer's pas de deux with Karen Portner. As usual, Mimi Shimmin's costumes enhanced the movement of the dancers, particularly the saffron silk which dressed the dancers of the HOLBERG SUITE.

The audience favorite was the world première of NOCTURNES, choreographed by Lisa de Ribere and set to the music of Debussy. For this piece, the women of the company shone — literally, from the mist covering the stage — to create a twilight dream world. Their bodies flowed as effortlessly as the music.

The lighting designed by Scott Leathers was subtle yet appropriate, leading the dancers across the stage as they sought to fight a way from loneliness to love.

Anne Finch epitomized this search as she entered the stage in a shaft of light and danced without spotlights, captivating her audience. Her pas de deux with Schaeffer showed the virtuosity of these two dancers.

Completing the contemporary program was the company première of THE ROUSSEL SYMPHONY. As much as NOCTURNES was a piece in which the women displayed their artistry, THE ROUSSEL SYMPHONY belonged to the men.

Choreographed by artistic director Dane LaFontsee before the creation of Nashville Ballet, the men made it their own. Adding balance to the stage were Portner and Cathryn Beasley who danced with Schaeffer and Barry Gager.

This season the company has expanded to 18 dancers so that it might present THE NUTCRACKER SUITE as a Christmas gift to its audiences.

The growing company, the large and enthusiastic audience and the champagne reception which followed the performance are sure signs that Nashville Ballet has firmly established itself.

How fortunate we are to have a company which combines such energy with such grace.
It's a mystery to me


reviewed by SHERI RITBERG

Book Editor

ASIDE FROM BEING new Walker mysteries, DEADLY RESOLUTIONS and A KILLING IN VENTURE CAPITAL have something in common—a gay murder victim. It is hard to talk about DEADLY RESOLUTIONS without giving away too much. Abby Doyle is the amateur sleuth. Tough and self-sufficient, she is a socially conscious efficiency expert with a tender heart. During her environmental watch group's annual beach walk, Doyle and her friends discover the still-warm body of Army Corps of Engineers general Martin Thorne. Because the New York police suspect someone in the group of murdering Thorne, Doyle decides to investigate the crime herself.

The police detective in charge of the case is Margaret Standish. Standish is tough, too, and sarcastic, with a tender heart. (Well, she won't admit to a tender heart, but her actions belie her toughness.) Doyle and Standish strike up a totally unbelievable friendly/adversarial relationship during the course of the investigation. For some reason—pure stupidity, her tender heart or a mad crush on Doyle—Standish risks her career to protect Doyle by not reporting two murders and giving Doyle a phony alibi.

Standish's willingness to place Doyle above police procedure is unusual in the mystery genre. These amateur detective/police detective relationships are common, but the police detective is ordinarily above reproach when it comes to her or his (usually his) professional conduct. Higher-ups may find fault with the police detective's friendship with the amateur, but the police detective is scrupulously honest. It is interesting that Anna Ashwood Collins chose to give her female police detective the traditionally "feminine" characteristic of valuing interpersonal connections over the rules, even to the point of dishonesty with the rule-makers. If Collins continues to write about the team of Doyle and Standish, she may have problems with this aspect of Standish's persona.

Unfortunately, Collins uses homosexuality stereotypically, as something to be ashamed of, something to murder or be murdered over. Neither Doyle nor Standish personally appear to think homosexuality is repugnant, although Doyle does make one annoying comment about gay bars, but the homosexuals themselves seem to find it so. They are either petty criminals or corrupt aristocrats, murderers or blackmailers. To give a little away, homosexuality as a motive for murder is something of a red herring in DEADLY RESOLUTIONS, but it is used in a rather unpleasant way. Still, DEADLY RESOLUTIONS is an interesting puzzle, with a promising pair of female detectives.

The gay characters in Margaret Logan's A KILLING IN VENTURE CAPITAL are a little easier to talk about because they are (I know I've said before that this is impossible) incidentally gay. Well, almost. Pen Mauran and David Benoist's gayness does little to advance the plot, although it is used once or twice to sleuth. Drew Lisenard's advantage, and homosexuality is never considered motive for murder. Pen and David could be turned into a heterosexual couple with only a few minor revisions, most as simple as changing "he" to "she."

Pen Mauran is venture capitalist Drew Lisenard's photojournalist cousin. When Pen's lover David disappears and is believed by police to have drowned accidentally while sailing, Pen turns to Drew for help. Pen refuses to believe that David's death was an accident and the two seek an explanation for murder. They first suspect residents of Pen's Maine hometown, who they think hated David because of his father's corrupt management of a paper mill. It soon becomes clear, however, that revenge is not the motive. Instead, David's position as chief financial officer of a promising new biotechnology firm is the link to his murder.

The plot gets a little complicated. Drew is busy falling in love with Nanda West, his counterpart at a competing firm, and the whole field of venture capital will be unfamiliar to most readers. Mystery fans who've read Emma Lathan's banking novels will be able to compare Logan's use of complex financial procedures favorably with Lathan's. Logan gives some time to consideration of the ethical issues involved in Nanda and Drew's relationship and hints at conflicts between gay rights activists and closeted professionals. Drew, Nanda and Pen have interesting personalities—I'm particularly fond of the fact that David's mother was popular children's writer Caroline Kent, creator of the eccentric Nanny family, stars of books like Nanny's Put the Top Down.

A KILLING IN VENTURE CAPITAL is a good mystery; entertaining and well plotted, with diverting characters. It is also good from the standpoint of depiction of gay characters. Pen and David are not stereotypes, but neither are they denials-types. It amuses Pen that he and his cousin are look-aliases (neighborhood activists suggest the pair for a poster titled "Can You Tell Which Boy is Bent?") but there is no intimation that only undetectable gays are acceptable. Pen has a network of gay friends and, although not an activist himself, an understanding and knowledge of gay politics. The depiction of homophobia is also accurate—it rears its head even in the otherwise sympathetic main characters. At one point, for example, Nanda puzzles over which of a pair of gay men jogging by is dominant, then quickly realizes the implications of her thoughts.
**VIEWS**

**Coming out year 'round**

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY came and went this week with very little fanfare in Tennessee.

The 1983 edition was celebrated throughout the state in a variety of ways, including a peaceful, and we daresay, effective demonstration at a marriage license bureau, parties, speeches and the like.

This year, things were low-keyed, but effective nonetheless. Tennesseans were asked to turn on their headlights to signify their taking the next step.

But we don't really need a special day to take our next step in the coming out process. Instead, we should take that next step whenever possible, regardless of the date.

That next step may be as simple as leaving a lesbian/gay newspaper or magazine on a table, or by calling up those old college chums and telling them about your life. You might come out to your family and friends or even just walk into a mirror and say the words to yourself.

Tack your next step, you see, is really much easier than you might think.

**Returning to the Quilt**

LAST WEEKEND's display of the NAMES Project National AIDS Memorial Quilt was a moving experience for those who made the pilgrimage to Washington.

Although every display of the Quilt is an emotional event, last weekend's was made even more so by the fact that because of the immense size of the Quilt, the entire work will not be displayed again. Instead, smaller, more manageable pieces will continue to tour the nation, bringing the dramatic impact of the highly personal stories sewn into the Quilt to more people.

That the Quilt continues to grow presents both a disturbing reality and a hopeful dream. It indicates that AIDS continues to ravage humankind while issuing forth a gentle reminder that dedicated people continue to fight the disease.

AN OFTEN-HEARD question during the display last weekend was, "Do you think people will continue to come to see the Quilt?"

After three annual displays in the nation's capital and numerous showings throughout the rest of the country and the world, the number of people who've viewed the Quilt is in the thousands, perhaps even in the millions.

But, in answer to that question: Yes, they will come. They will come to the Quilt for its cathartic effect. They will come to grieve and to remember the friends and lovers, sons and daughters, parents and siblings who are memorialized in the Quilt's folds. They will come to renew their commitment to demand care for AIDS.

We must all continue to remember the Quilt and its role in our lives, and for what is stands.

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**DARE**

**TEENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY**

"I am the Love that dare not speak its name." — Lord Alfred Douglas, "The Two Lovers," 1892

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Publisher STUART RIVIN

Editor JEFF KELLER

Book Editor SHERRE DRYDEN

Staff: Innae MARK L. BOLKARDS

Staff Writers CAROLE CUNNINGHAM • JOE MAROIL JACKI MOSS • LAURA TAK

Contributors SUSAN BRUNING • NANCY LYN REIFGE GEORGE GRAHAM • LESHA HAINES JIM ROCHE

Circulation SANDY ROUSSELL

Advertising Sales KEVIN BASS • BRIAN HULSE

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Dare is available on microfilm at the Tennessean State Library and Archives.

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**SOAP BOX**

**Bigotry is bigotry is bigotry**

by JIM ROCHE

Contributing Writer

THIS PAST WEEK I went back to my old theology school to buy some books. Waiting in line with some people I knew and some I didn't recognize from my time at seminary, I listened to conversations and heard some of the same talk I used to hear. Concern with exams. Concern with assignments. Most of all, concern with the weight of textbooks. Then a new student came into the bookstore and began a conversation with someone in line:

"I need to talk to you... it's important... look at this" (holding up a petition with something angrily scribbled across it.) It sounded like a private conversation, but his exasperation made it public. He was holding an anti-violence petition of some sort, calling for an end to anti-gay acts. Across the space the set aside for signatures was scribbled: "Go to hell!"

I didn't catch who they thought might have written it, workers who were renovating the building perhaps? Fellow students (soon to be ministers?) What did he hear in the student's voice was outrage and hurt. Whoever had written this had violated him. Many ministry students expect coming a campus in which they can feel free from harassment and discrimination. Soon they find out that there are no safe havens. There's nowhere to hide. Not even on the campus of a liberal theological seminary which in its notice of nondiscrimination says that the school does not discriminate on the basis of "race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, national or ethnic origin or physical disabilities."

The student talked about what he had done in similar circumstances at his last school. "Wasn't it time for a sit-down strike? A prayer meeting? Something?"

I suppose that if the perpetrator is caught there will be hell to pay. But as with many of these cases of harassment and anti-gay speech today, especially on campus, sooner or later it comes down to an issue of free speech. On campuses all across America, in an effort to hold the line of anti-gay, anti-semitic and racist speech, schools are formulating anti-discrimination policies.

Last year at the University of Michigan, after a barrage of racist and anti-semitic remarks were broadcast on the campus radio station, a policy designed to prohibit bigotry was instituted. Stanford, the University of Wisconsin and the University of Connecticut are all formulating policies. Others are following.

Putting limits on free speech is something that civil libertarians and conservatives alike object to. They worry that it will limit discussion, the free exchange of ideas, persuasion and ultimately lead to more divisions and misunderstandings that are even more deeply entrenched.

BY NOT TAKING a firm stand against bigotry, through default you support it. Many who were directly involved with the civil right movement are quick to point out that what we have been in the gaining of civil rights have not been made by the power of persuasion, or the free flow of ideas, but instead have been enforced changes.

As lesbian and gay people whose psyches each day experience the rape of words, we should expect to be confronted by this argument about free speech for some time. As we try to decide which side we as lesbian and gay people come down on, let's remember the facts. The First Amendment, while it applies to all, was written to protect the powerful and mighty from those they oppress. It wasn't written as a rock for racists, sexists, homophobes and other bigots to claw under for protection. It wasn't written to protect the free speech of police who yell "faggot" while they club ACT UP demonstrators, nor was it written to protect the majority's right to hold rallies to protest the very existence of minority groups.

The Bill of Rights was written to protect the unprotected. It was written to allow minority viewpoints to be heard, felt and listened to without threat from those who have power.

Regrettably, racism, sexism, anti-semitism and anti-gay bigotry are not minority views. How many more judges have to let off killers of gay people because they killed homosexuals, and how many more police get to yell "faggot" as they beat our heads, how many more people have to lose their jobs or get tossed before someone says, "Yes, bigotry kills people and to speak words of bigotry in this country is like yelling 'fire' in a theatre?"
I RAN INTO AN OLD FRIEND in New York City not too long ago. We talked a while. He told me about his third divorce. Since I'd gone to the junior prom with him, I had no problem understanding that.

He asked me if I were married.

I told him I was gay.

He asked if I lived in New York.

I said no. I was just on my way to the airport to catch a flight to Miami. I glanced at my watch.

He asked me if I knew Cyro, an interior decorator (naturally) who lived in Vero Beach. (Have you ever noticed how some people automatically assume that all gay people know each other?)

I told him that I didn't know anyone from Vero Beach, and that I didn't think I knew anyone named Cyro. I could tell he wasn't too sure I was being honest about my sexual orientation anymore.

He decided to give me a little exam in order to determine if I had been pulling his leg about being gay. (After all, I had gone to the prom with him.) He asked me questions guaranteed to establish whether I was truly homosexual. It is a known fact that all gay persons are experts on certain subjects. So he tested me on my knowledge of disco (does anybody even remember disco?), dancing in general (which is definitely not one of my strong points), fashion (I wear the same sweatshirt and sweatpants day in and day out), and, finally, hair care (the last time the guy who does my hair saw me, he screamed 'yes, he's gay' and begged me not to tell a soul that I even knew who he was).

Obviously, I failed the test miserably. But my old friend wasn't stupid. In no time at all, he realized he'd asked the wrong questions.

Everyone knows that the above inquiries should always be made only to a gay man. While society may lump all gay persons together, my friend was bright enough to realize his mistake. He immediately switched tactics.

He proceeded to give me a flash quiz on topics familiar to lesbians, like which gasoline is best for long mileage and my fastest time for a beer. I wouldn't be surprised if it were in a champagne glass.

I should have seen this as an indication of things to come. After telling these "liberals" that I knew absolutely nothing about flannel work shirts, black leather jackets, motorcycles or pool tables, the conversation lagged. I tried to revive it. I talked about the recent sale at Saks, the new Elizabeth Arden shop, the problems faced by professional women. I even made a somewhat feeble attempt at sports. That helped until they realized that I thought Dr. J was a soft-drink.

One of them squeezed my leg under the table. I guess I had it coming. After all, I did have a skirt on and a woman wearing a skirt is secretly begging to have some strange guy squeeze her kneecap with his lecherous little hands. Everybody knows that.

All I knew was that it was time to leave. I noticed my friend looking at me sadly as the beer they handed me, unopened and without a glass. I suppose I should have seen this as an indication of things to come. After telling these "liberals" that I knew absolutely nothing about flannel work shirts, black leather jackets, motorcycles or pool tables, the conversation lagged. I tried to revive it. I talked about the recent sale at Saks, the new Elizabeth Arden shop, the problems faced by professional women. I even made a somewhat feeble attempt at sports. That helped until they realized that I thought Dr. J was a soft-drink.

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All I knew was that it was time to leave. I noticed my friend looking at me sadly as the others reluctantly stood when I did. Definite proof that the old Roy Rogers stigma would not be put to rest by me.

"It's too bad Radclyffe Hall is dead," I whispered to him disconsolately.

We said goodbye, and it was obvious that my handshake did not come up to snuff. I played around with my ACT UP button, but my friend was too dejected to notice. I hoped that he still had his old stuffed horse back at his apartment. Everybody needs something.

As I hopped into a cab for the ride to LaGuardia, I felt a little remorse. Here had been people eager to show me how modern they were, how willing to accept a lesbian as one of the guys. And I hadn't done one thing that I not only wasn't one of the guys, but that I didn't have the slightest desire to be one.

THANK GOD, I sat next to a well-dressed man with a great haircut on the plane. He was reading the New York Times. But his eyes were fixed on his Walkman.

We talked about the various options provided by brunch and exchanged recipes for crêpes all the way to Miami, where his wife and kids were waiting for him at the gate.
Los E L P I P S

Inquiring minds want to know

"Roseanne Delighted as Her Lesbian Sister 'Marries' Another Woman"
— NATIONAL ENQUIRER headline trumpeting the planned marriage of comedian Roseanne Barr's sister Geraldine.

"It doesn't bother me. I know plenty of gay people who are wonderful, caring people." — Roseanne Barr, quoted in NATIONAL ENQUIRER.

"Madonna's Hot New Romance With Rocker George Michael"
— Another NATIONAL ENQUIRER scoop about Madonna's relationship with George Michael. Yeah, sure.

"The continuation of Barney Frank as a congressman from Massachusetts is a disgrace to that body where the need for morality and statesmanship is great. I suggest that it adopt the slogan 'The Gay State,' for its vehicular license plates. That would be appropriate because only Massachusetts elects known gays to the congress. The state is a disgrace." — Ernestine cone-reval ali a Paul W. Stimson, in a letter to the editor of THE BOSTON GLOBE.

"Two men kissing on the front page of my paper is disgusting. What kind of morals do these people have? This is THE MONTREAL GAZETTE comes to my house every day. My kids see it. I'm so afraid of embarrassment." — Reader who opted to adopt the slogan 'The Gay State,' for its vehicular license plates. That would be appropriate because only Massachusetts elects known gays to the congress. The state is a disgrace.

"Don't worry Zsa Zsa, even in prison, lesbians have standards." — David Letterman, responding to convicted lawbreaker Zsa Zsa Gabor's statements that she's afraid of incarcerated lesbians, in a monologue.

"The churches that say, 'We love you but hate your homosexuality' — that's theological nonsense because sexuality is a fundamental given of personality. To say that you hate someone's sexuality is to deny them human dignity." — Rev. Scott Alexander, newly appointed director of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Office on Resources, and Gay Concerns in an interview with the Boston-based lesbian and gay paper bay windows.

"Let's see: hookers, vampires, space-age vixenas." — Singer Gloria Estefan, on the roles being offered her by Hollywood producers.

"This album is dedicated to my very ill loved ones. Those who are still here hanging on and those who tried to hang on, but had to leave and are now at peace. (Malik Smith — you'll never be forgotten; Sylvester — you make me feel mighty real.) I know you'll hear this wherever you are." — Dina Patti Labelle, in the album liner notes from her latest release, BE YOURSELF.

— Nostalgic piece of graffiti found in the men's room of Sullivan's Tavern in Washington, D.C.

"When I hear people talking about getting in touch with their feelings, I just want to duck and cover. It's just so warm and runny, you want to gag." — Steven Soderbergh, whose film sex, lies and videotapes... won the coveted "Golden Palm" award at the Cannes Film Festival this year.

"Let me make it perfectly clear: it's not weekly community papers that k.d. stays away from; not non-music publications; not 'speciality' periodicals; not political pamphlets disguised as newspapers. No, it's just gay rags. So what's Kathy Dawn afraid of? Does she think we might ask the question ... Kathy Dawn's private life — gay, straight, whatever — is her own business. It is, however, an outrageous expectation on k.d.'s part to expect us to buy thousands of albums and concert tickets, contribute immeasurably to her success, and then sit quietly by while everybody but us gets invited to the party." — Achy Obejas, in her City Watch column in Chicago's WINDY CITY TIMES, skewering country music songbird k.d. lang for what must be a homophobic slight.

"I always feel that I've been branded by that. I had no emotional or spiritual equipment to know what I was really doing." — Actress Glenn Close, remembering her days as a singer with "Up With People.

"I like to kidnap Reagan Youth and plunder their virgin mouths and holes for days in my basement."
— Reactionary Reagan-era graffiti, found on a men's room wall in Washington, D.C. Whatever happened to "Kilroy was here?"

"I believe that 'lesbian' has a far more fearful connotation in our society than 'gay male.'" — Terri Sutton, in a recent issue of our week.