Police seek suspect
by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Goodlettsville police say they have established a motive and are continuing their investigation into the murder of Volunteer State Community College biology professor Robert Sibert. A suspect in the October 22 slaying was seen using Sibert's credit cards in Nashville the day the victim's body was found, police say. According to published reports, Goodlettsville Police believe robbery was the motive in the slaying.

The suspect is described as a stocky white man between 5 feet 8 inches and 6 feet 1 inch tall, with sandy brown hair, and weighing around 200 pounds. Sibert, 41, was found dead from a bullet to the head in the bedroom of his Goodlettsville home late Sunday, October 22. Glad only in his underwear, Sibert's body was discovered by his father and brother after his ex-wife, Maki Lin, had told police they had not heard from him since the previous day. Extensive forensic examinations of the vehicle failed to turn up any clues in the investigation.

Sibert's missing 1987 Toyota was found in a Nashville parking lot. Scientists seek volunteers in state for AIDS research
by JACKI MOSS
Staff Writer

Lyphomed, Inc., recently announced a "Patient Assistance Program" through which they will donate NebuPent (nebulized pentamidine) to people who are at high risk for pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP). According to Lyphomed, NebuPent will be provided to indigent people who are unable to obtain reimbursement for the drug through medical insurance or government reimbursement programs.

Massachusetts passes gay rights bill
by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

After a 17-year effort by civil rights activists, both houses of the Massachusetts legislature earlier this month approved the lesbian and gay Civil Rights Bill which prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, credit, insurance and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation.

"This is a proud moment in Massachusetts history and a milestone in the national civil rights movement," said David LaFontaine, lobbying director for the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, based in Cambridge, Mass. "We're excited about the potential of this bill to give impetus to gay and lesbian rights struggles throughout the nation."

The bill passed the Massachusetts House of Representatives last April by a 76-72 vote and received full Senate approval on November 6. When the bill is signed into law by Gov. Michael Dukakis, it will empower the Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination (MCAD) to investigate and prosecute cases of anti-lesbian/gay discrimination.

Introduction of such a bill in the Tennessee legislature may be a long time in coming, according to a member of the state house of representatives, who spoke to Dare off the record. Recent changes in the state's criminal code which specifically ban same-sex acts may indicate a reluctance on the part of state lawmakers to consider any future legislative action on lesbian and gay civil rights, she said.

Passage of the bill in Massachusetts caps a 17-year struggle to have the bill approved. The legislature's action follows a 1982 vote by Wisconsin lawmakers that enacted a similar law in that state.

Efforts in other states have been largely unsuccessful, marred by political infighting. As early as 1973, the District of Columbia prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation. However, earlier this year, the U.S. Congress passed an amendment introduced by Rep. William Armstrong (R-Colo.), which required the City Council of the District of Columbia to alter its ordinance to exempt religious educational institutions from gay and lesbian civil rights protections.

Black and gay: A look at BWMT/Memphis
Fifth in a series by LAURA TEK

Staff Writer

Black and White Men Together (BWMT), as the name suggests, is a gay organization committed to the development of a supportive environment where racial and cultural barriers are to be recognized and overcome and the goal of human equality realized.

To that end, BWMT engages in only those educational, political and social activities that deal directly with racism, sexism and homophobia.

The organization's name, in the words of founder Michael Smith, who died from AIDS last September, was "chosen to make a bold and public statement."

Founded in 1980, BWMT does not discriminate or confine itself to only one group. People of all backgrounds (men, women, white, black, straight, young, old, Asian, Latino) are encouraged to join together to build and open lines of communication for the sole purpose of confronting and attacking the issues of racism and homophobia.

BWMT/Memphis is an affiliate of the National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) which includes a total of 24 chapters around the country. Southeastern chapters include Jacksonville and Atlanta in addition to Memphis, which next January will celebrate its eighth anniversary.

Tennessee trials help in new drug search
Scientists seek volunteers in state for AIDS research

by JEFF ELLIS
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According to Lyphomed, NebuPent will be provided to indigent people who are unable to obtain reimbursement for the drug through medical insurance or government reimbursement programs. Lyphomed said that by federal law it cannot donate NebuPent directly to patients and it will, therefore, rely on the selected community-based AIDS organizations to administer the program at the local level. Although no specific mention of the exact timeframe in which the "Patient Assistance Program" will donate the drug, it stated that approximately 40 nonprofits community-based clinics have applied to administer NebuPent under the program.

There are many clinical trials under way in Tennessee that may interest you. Keep in mind if you decide to volunteer for a clinical trial that the drugs being studied are strictly investigational and their safety and effectiveness in people with HIV has not been proven. You should talk with your personal physician before entering a trial. Although many trials are promising, they may not necessarily be the best or only treatment and the risks and benefits of participating in them should be discussed with your physician.

You should also know that the criteria for clinical trials is very, very specific and a person-by-person determination is made for each volunteer's potential for participation in a trial. In short, not everyone who volunteers is eligible to participate in a trial, but there are many trials with differing criteria.

In the wake of a recent Connecticut court ruling, a law has been enacted making it a crime to use a person's medical information for anything other than the purpose of that individual's care. The law, which went into effect on October 1, prohibits the use of medical information for marketing, selling or distributing it for research or any other non-treatment-related use.

The law was passed in response to concerns about the sale of medical records by hospitals and doctors to third parties, who then use the information to solicit patients for medical services.

The law prohibits the use of medical information for any purpose other than the treatment of the patient. It specifically prohibits the use of medical information for marketing, selling, or distributing it for research or any other non-treatment-related use.

The law also requires doctors and hospitals to obtain written consent from patients before using their medical information for marketing purposes.

The law was enacted to protect the privacy of patients and to ensure that their medical information is used only for the purpose of their treatment. It is a significant step forward in protecting the privacy of patients and their medical records.
**CROSS COUNTRY**

compiled by **MARK LAWRENCE**

**Staff Writer**

**Same-sex couples finally dance at Disneyland**

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Andrew Exler, who was ejected from Disneyland after dancing with a man nine years ago, led a group of eight male couples who went dancing at the theme park — with the approval of Disney officials.

"A guard came up and asked us if we had any problems with the guests," said Exler. "This really shows there has been a turn-around in Disney practice."

On Sept. 13, 1980, Exler and his dance partner Shawn Elliott were forced to leave the park after dancing together at the park's Tomorrowland Terrace. The two sued, and in May 1984 an Orange County Superior Court judge issued an injunction that prohibited Disney from discriminating specifically against Exler and Elliott. In 1985 Disney officials agreed to allow all same-sex couples to dance together.

**Mickey Mouse** is just going to have to get used to seeing lesbians and gay men dancing together. Disney officials have changed their policy following Andrew Exler's nine-year legal battle.

--- **SAME FILE PHOTO**

**Report exonerates Hampton**

DALLAS — The investigation into the judicial conduct of District Court Judge Jack Hampton has apparently exonerated him of misconduct.

Hampton, who last year told reporters he had given a convicted murderer a lesser sentence because the man's victims were gay, was found in a report issued by special master Robert Murray, to have only violated the judicial canon that prohibits judges from commenting on pending cases.

Lesbian and gay activists, who instigated the proceedings against Hampton earlier this year, expressed outrage at the report's findings. Murray had been appointed by the Texas Supreme Court to conduct a public hearing concerning Hampton's published remarks and to issue a report to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

"I'm very frustrated," said David Bryan, legal director of the Texas Human Rights Foundation. "We citizens who pay the taxes that pay the commission and the master have a right to expect more."

Charges against Hampton arose from remarks published in the **DALLAS TIMES HERALD**, in which the judge told reporter Lori Montgomery that among the mitigating factors in his sentencing of Richard Lee Bednarz was the fact that his victims, Tommy Lee Trimble and John Lloyd Griffin, were gay.

**Man fights for adoption**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A gay man has been fighting the Licking County Children's Services agency for the right to adopt an 8-year-old boy suffering from leukemia. Melvin Lee Balser, a psychologist who used to counsel the boy under contract with the agency, claims he could give the boy a stable home.

Balser's petition to adopt was approved in the county's Probate Court, but overturned when the agency pursued the case to the 5th Ohio District Court of Appeals. The agency claims Balser is not a fit parent because he is gay and lives with his male lover. The agency also said they did not believe Balser could properly care for the child, who has a speech impediment and learning disabilities in addition to his leukemia.

According to William B. Seward, Jr., the assistant Licking County prosecutor who is representing Children's Services, "It is not the business of the government to promote homosexuality. In this case, it would not be in the best interest of the child."

**SF ordinance repealed**

SAN FRANCISCO — A highly publicized attempt to repeal the city's domestic partners ordinance succeeded on Nov. 7. The referendum was one of five successful efforts to repeal laws against discrimination toward lesbians and gay men or people with AIDS.

The domestic partners legislation lost by 1,777 votes out of more than 165,000, or less than one percent. The widest margin was in Concord, Calif., where an act prohibiting discrimination against PWAs was repealed by a six percent margin.

Voters in Athens, Ohio; Irvine, Calif.; and Tacoma, Wash., also voted to repeal gay rights laws recently established in their cities.

"We're disappointed; they're setbacks," said Eric Rosenthal of the Human Rights Campaign Fund. "But, unfortunately, you can never go just straightforward. You have to look back at where we were five or ten years ago and see where we're progressing."

**First gay black man elected**

ALBANY, N.Y. — Keith St. John became the first openly gay black man to be elected to public office when he won a seat on the city's Common Council.

The 32-year-old Democratic Party candidate won easily with 75 percent of the vote in a three-way race against Republican and Conservative Party candidates. St. John had earlier upset incumbent Arthur Scott in the Democratic primary. In the general election St. John received 1,315 votes to 508 for Scott, who remained on the ballot as the Conservative candidate. Republican candidate Martin Keins received 123 votes.

**Seeing is believing.**

Dare is looking for photographers to help document the lives of lesbian and gay Tennesseans. We're not necessarily looking for pros, just for reliable people with cameras.

If you're in Chattanooga, Clarksville, Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville, the Tri-Cities or just about anywhere else in the state, we'd like to hear from you about joining us to occasionally supply photos of events and people in your neck of the woods. And, of course, we're always looking for more writers.

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...Massachusetts passes gay rights

+ continued from page 1

In 1983, a bill introduced in the California legislature by Art Agnos, now mayor of San Francisco, passed both houses but was vetoed by Gov. George Deukmejian. Both houses of the Connecticut legislature gave initial approval to a gay rights bill in 1987, only to see the measure defeated by one vote in the final House vote.

Earlier this year the Iowa House of Representatives passed gay-rights legislation, only to see the bill voted down by the state senate. Gay rights legislation is expected to be considered by a number of other state legislatures in the coming months, including Rhode Island, Vermont, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Maine, Ohio, Illinois, Texas and Washington.

The success of the Massachusetts gay and lesbian community will inspire and energize activists all over the country," said Sue Hyde of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). "The lesson learned from 17 years of filing the bill in Massachusetts is 'don't give up, don't shut up and don't go away.'

"Gay civil rights is perhaps the last frontier of the great civil rights struggles of the 20th century," LaFontaine said. "A community that has been silent and invisible is rapidly transforming itself into a surging political force. The dream we've realized here in Massachus­ettes may be echoed in state after state in the very near future." ☆

...black and gay: BWMT/Memphis

+ continued from page 1

Irwin Rothenberg, a white Memphian, is a member of BWMT/Memphis, currently serving as chair of the AIDS Information Committee.

"I have been a gay activist, not only in Memphis, but in other cities such as Tucson and Denver for years. I've always had a personal concern for blacks and white with racism in all forms. In 1979, I helped form the Memphis Gay Coalition. Back then it was a much more politically oriented and indeed socially conscious organization than it is today. I was very proud to be a member of the Coalition.

"But when some blacks joined the Coalition there were expressions of racism by some of its members. Not too much later BWMT was formed and most of those blacks who had felt ostracized chose to affiliate themselves with BWMT.

"BWMT was formed as a result of the fact that racism, whether we like to admit it or not, exists in and outside the gay community. We wanted to provide a supportive environment for interracial couples.

"We see ourselves as on the edge of society because not only are we a minority in the straight community, but also in the gay community as well," Rothenberg said.

"I am a black man who lives in Memphis. He is one of the co-facilitators of the BWMT chapter.

"We live in a very oppressive environment," Dillard said. "Ignorance is not just limited to Memphis, it's nationwide. BWMT is an organization that takes up an agenda where racial and social barriers are to be broken down. It's not like any other gay organization. We do sit on the cutting edge of social change.

Each chapter of NABWMT is autonomous, which, according to Dillard, "means that those local organizations can pursue the form that is most conducive at the local level. It's kind of like a double-edged sword because they're autonomous yet not necessarily catered to or controlled by a national organization."

Many chapters have recently switched to other names because they are located in cities other than the places they are located in cities with other larger ethnic populations, such as Hispanic or Asian. A popular name for some chapters is Men of All Colors Together (MAC T). For other chapters who want to expand their membership, the name selected has been People of All Colors Together (PACT).

"Here in Memphis we're primarily black and white and for us here in the South, black and white still speaks to the primary issue of race. I foresaw us making the name black and gay a name for a long time," Rothenberg predicted.

"BWMT has realized, over the course of years, that part of the reason we've been so successful as an interracial organization where other groups have not is our feeling that unless all of the people who want to participate at the very beginning are included at the very development of the organization's structure, and share in the power and in the decision making right from the start, the organization will not succeed. The incorporation of interracial sharing must start at the very beginning," Rothenberg maintained.

"For example, BWMT has two co-facilitators. One has to be black and the other one white. If our treasurer is black, then the secretary must be white, and so on," he added.

"Now in other cities where there are higher percentages of other minorities, you'll find others in those positions. But here in Mem­phis the reality is primarily black and white with very little variation."

Recent statistics apparently support Rothenberg's point. Memphis' population is 55% black, while the state as a whole is about 17% black.

The Memphis metropolitan area, which includes portions of Shelby, Tipton and Fayette counties in Tennessee, Desoto County, Mississippi, and Crittenden County, Arkansas, is some 40% black. As a metropolitan area, Memphis has the highest percentage of blacks in the U.S.

BWMT is approximately 50% black and has a total of 25 to 30 dues-paying members. That classifies it as a medium-sized chapter (the largest has 160 members, the smallest 10). For a southern city, BWMT/Memphis has had a remarkable record of maintaining its membership.

Editor's note: Next week, we conclude "Black and Gay" with a further look at BWMT/Memphis and its agenda for the coming years.
Memphis

Chattanooga

Knoxville

Memphis

Community theatre group in the works

Battle Scars, a new drama written by a local playwright, will be the first production of a new community theatre group, The Lollipop Guild, which was organized in Memphis last October 15.

The new group grew out of discussions which followed the successful production last spring of The Boys in the Band. That show ran for three performances at WKRB in Memphis and was presented in Nashville by The Presley. The script calls for a "Triumphal Scene" where the victorious Egyptian Army returns.

Details are available by phoning (901) 382-0990 for further information.

Knoxville

Aida will complete opera season

Completing the 1989-90 season for Knoxville Opera will be the April 6 and 8 performances of Verdi's Aida, one of opera's most powerful love triangles, exploding against the backdrop of ancient Egypt.

Elephants and other animals from the Knoxville Zoo will help make Aida one of the most spectacular productions ever staged by the Knoxville Opera. The animals will march in the "Triumphal Scene" where the victorious Egyptian Army returns.

Details are available by phoning (615) 524-0795 or 523-6712.

Memphis

Gaze celebrates tenth anniversary

Editors and staff of Gaze, the monthly publication of the Memphis Gay Coalition, are celebrating its tenth anniversary with its November issue.

Since Gaze was first published, a number of Memphis lesbian and gay traditions have evolved, including the Gay Pride River Ride, GayFest, Brothers and Sisters Bowling League, Gay Women's Social Group and other organizations.

Nashville

Concert to raise funds for GCN

Journey will be interviewing for all positions on Saturday, November 18 between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 P.M. at 909 Church Street, Nashville. Bartenders, waiters, DJs, bar backs and clean-up personnel are needed.
9:00 Out of the closet and into the 1990s

The synthesized music by Mark Ishan and the intimate, tender growl of Harvey Fierstein’s voice, intercut with the news footage, underpin the interviews of the people who knew and supported Harvey.

Yes, it’s a talking heads independent documentary and I want you to hear it. Read the closing credits and you will see that it was partially funded by more than 751 individuals. It won an Academy Award for best feature documentary and three Emmys. At its close, over proud restrained French horn, is Harvey’s voice and his image in slow motion:

“Somewhere in San Antonio or Des Moines there is a young person who all of a sudden realizes that he or she is gay…You’ve got to elect gay people so that a young child, and the thousands upon thousands like that child, know that there’s hope for a better world, there’s hope for a better tomorrow. Without hope, not only gays, but those blacks, and the Asians, the disabled, the ‘us-es’, the ‘us-es’, without hope, the ‘us-es’ give up. I know that you cannot live on hope alone, but without it life is not worth living. And you, and you, and you have got to give them hope.”

• WHO ARE OUR ANCESTORS? We may have been born at the Stonewall Inn 20 years ago, but we were conceived in the hearts and minds of gay men and lesbians who went before us, who took a chance before the freewheeling ‘60s to speak the unspeakable, to discuss, to organize, to refuse to be alone in a hellish well of self-hatred.

The independently produced before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community is a visceral collage approach to the question of our origins. Directed by Greta Schiller and released in 1988, this astonishing feature’s research reflects honor, pathos and courage. It looks at our hidden, interior, predominantly intensely personal history from the turn of the century until the Stonewall riot in 1969, the event that marks the beginning of
the gay liberation movement.

From one interview: "It's hard for young people today (1982) to imagine that as little as 20 years ago a hundred gay people were sitting around arguing over whether or not they should say that they were mentally ill."

For those of us with a slow patience for social change and the machinations of political organizations this film makes clear that progress does indeed arise out of the chaos of personalities, personal fears, ambitions and passions for personal freedom. The film in Before Stonewall is in the fact that the individuals "bucked up" to face their own interiors and society, is in the way that they fashioned a legacy for us. Partake of your history, please. This film hands it to you on a rich plate.

- THIRD ON MY LIST OF "MUST sees" is I'VE HEARD THE MERMAIDS SINGING. This feature is wacky, tender, funny, thoughtful and it has an irresistible combination! It's also a pleasure to see and hear. Video footage keeps its grain and scans; photographs freeze and turn a cold steel blue; paintings of great mystery and power shine light on the question of artistic integrity. The music is literally scaring. Polly is our heroine, played to perfection by Sheila McCarthy. She's a goofy redhead, a temporary "Girl Friday" who becomes a "Peron Friday" for a gallery owner. Along the way she falls in love with "The Curator," as Polly calls her. It's a mystery of sorts, and a first person account of "what went wrong," and it's delightful entertainment. On third viewing it still holds up. Canadian independent director Patricia Rozema should, please, make more movies.

- NOBODY ATTACKS THE hard issues of gay life better than Harvey Fierstein. TORCH SONG TRILOGY has good words on just about everything you've ever wanted to hear or say on the subject of dignity. Harvey plays the lead character, Arnold Beckoff, and Arnold takes it all on: loneliness, campiness, drag, bisexuals, casual sex, monogamy, parents, "fag bashing," children. And takes it on with wit and style with some of the best writing I can recall.

Thank god it's a good looking movie, too, and not just because Matthew Broderick is in it. Not great, mind you, but good enough to hold the eye. Speaking of eyes, the extreme close up which begins the shot to establish Arnold's adult character as he transforms himself into the drag queen Virginia Ham is a full two minutes and six seconds long, and every frame is precisely in place. So are Harvey's politics and heart. In the credits: "This film is dedicated to the people involved in the struggle against AIDS."

The characters and situations are saturated with emotion. In the most moving scene where Arnold argues with his mother, played to loving stereotypical Jewish perfection by Anne Bancroft, he screams. "Everybody knows that queers don't matter, that queers don't love, and queers deserve what they get!" Later in the same heat his mothers slams back: "You cheated me out of your life and then blamed me for not being there!"

MERMAIDS and TORCH SONG are types of the two feature roads travelled for gays and lesbians in the cinema. One treats the sexual orientation as a given and tracks another story. The other rolls itself in politics and in the essence of personal struggle.

We need more of both. We need to see ourselves larger than life and surviving as the whole humans we are.

*
reviewed by JEFF ELLIS
Editor
BEGINNING WITH A frenzied version of "Simon Says" and a competitive round of Trivial Pursuit, the latest edition of Avante Garage lunacy is a night of top-notch comedy improvisation highlighted by some wonderfully wicked scripted sketches.

Bringing to the stage their usual deft blend of sometimes-wild abandon and beyond-the-fringe craziness, the eight-member Avante Garage band of loonies may have exceeded their earlier efforts with "November Notions." This new offering is definitely more cohesive, a skillful blending of personalities and talent.

And what talent there is in this group! From the expected (hilarious performances by the always-delightful Michael Bouson and Martha Gabel) to the unexpected (greatly improved comic turns from Joe Correll, Lari White, Phil Perry and Jamey Green), the troupe never fails to satisfy with their unique mix of humor, satire and wickedly ribald roasting of Nashville's sacred cows.

The entire company is spotlighted in the latest episodes of "Chickering Heights," the soap opera spoof on Nashville's social set, featuring Gabel as society doyenne Tish Hooker Flügelhorn, wife of Kenneth Flügelhorn (Green), conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic, and sister-in-law to Leslie Chin (Bouson), the founder of Chinwood, who had his tongue cut out after reading THE WORLID in a winner. The show's finale, "November Notions;" in which cable TV's channel 36 celebrates the holidays, is much too long. It starts out quite funny, but unfortunately the rest of the cast, try as they might, can't sustain the humor and the sketch lapses into slapstick, only to be saved by a truly inspired musical finish that's breathtaking.

Lake Luke (Correll as a Pizza Hut waiter) has married Hillary Chin. White is breathtakingly funny as Luke's younger sister Lulu, who plays harmonica in the Bellevue Marching Band. White also shines as folk singer "Hope Steadfast" who's "50-something" and now attempting a comeback at the Ramada Inn-Opryland's open mike night.

"Ever since FAMILY TIES went into syndication, I've had a lot I wanted to sing about," she tells us.

Perry is featured in a series of TV commercial takeoffs that range from "Formby's Spot Be Gone" (with White as Lady MacBeth).

Correll takes the stage for a series of funny sketches including "Miles Standup" at the first thanksgiving and a televangelist trying his luck with a drive-in ministry.

Bouson and Gabel (who could simply stand on stage and make me laugh) star in "The Game of Life," during which their three children (Correll, Perry and White) play a variety of games to win breakfast. Bouson's right on target as the smarmy game show host and Gabel's at her best as a cross between Yanna White and Carol Merrill.

But not everything in this three-act show is a winner. The show's finale, "November Notions," in which cable TV's channel 36 celebrates the holidays, is much too long. It starts out quite funny, but unfortunately the cast, try as they might, can't sustain the humor and the sketch lapses into slapstick, only to be saved by a truly inspired musical finish that's first-rate.

A likeable Opal
reviewed by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

MUCH OF THE THEATRE is about taking chances and so it is appropriate that Chaffin's Barn's artistic director Michael Edwards and Grand Ole Opry star Jeannie Seely decided to try their luck with a collaboration. The result is an often funny, though sometimes disappointing, show called EVERYBODY LOVES OPAL.

The John Patrick comedy gives Seely a chance to steal scenes and mug — something at which she's amazingly adept — and to take some career chances. It's certainly not something she had to do, after all she's a Grammy-winning singer who's been delighting country audiences for the last 20 odd years, but she does it in a style that tells everyone she's having a fine old time.

With Edwards' expert direction, Seely and the rest of the cast do their best with a script that seems to epitomize the term "dinner theatre." The play doesn't have any ulterior motives — you're not hit over the head by some heavy-handed social issues — it just provides a nice little after-dinner entertainment.

Seely plays Opal Kronkie, a junk dealer with failing eyesight who becomes the target of a trio of inept evil doers, whose counterfeit perfume business has been upended by the police. Desperate for money, the three would-be con artists decide to take out a life insurance on Opal, then waste her and collect the $30,000. However, killing Opal is not so easy and before you know it, the terrible trio find • continued on page 9
SOUNDS

Let's flaunt it!

ROMANOFSKY AND PHILLIPS have been compared with every duo from Simon and Garfunkel to Donnie and Marie, but the audience they wowed Thursday, November 9, in Nashville (The following night, they were in Knoxville for a concert at the University of Tennessee Music Hall). Would you have a sound that is their own.

Or rather sounds, ranging from tightly harmonized love songs to nothing short of flamin’ twang with Broadway show-tune flair tossed in for good measure. Romanovery and Phillips are true entertainers, able to establish atmosphere and invite the audience to follow them as they explore issues of lesbian and gay life, whether to the toe-tapping beat of “Straightening Up The House” in preparation for a visit from Mother or the melancholy cries of “I’m No Good for You.”

From the moment they stepped on stage, the held the audience’s attention. Paul Phillips appeared as a jester in black and while polka dots, joking with the audience while Ron Romanovery was a dark-haired troubadour. Both are accomplished musicians: Ron does most of the writing and is a wiz on the guitar and keyboards while Paul sings lead.

In between songs Phillips and Romanovery did not hesitate to talk about the struggles of touring for eight years or about their own break up more than a year ago. Their performance is tribute to their belief in their own .

...state researchers seek vols

• continued from page 1

The expenses associated with participation in clinical trials is often paid to you, but usually expenses you normally incur otherwise will remain your responsibility.

Call, toll-free, 1-800-TRIALS-A for specific information about trials in your area. Some of the current trials and how to contact them:

• Chattanooga — (Unknown protocol number) to study Fluconazole and Ketoconazole on esophageal candidiasis. Contact David Pitts at (615) 267-5141.

• Memphis — University of Tennessee FDA Protocol #12-B to study the effect of Fluconazole and Ketoconazole on esophageal candidates. Contact Clinton Stewart at (901) 528-6124.

• FDA Protocols 12-F and 12-H to study Fluconazole and Amphotericin B as a treatment for acute cryptococcal meningitis. Contact Daniel Steen at (901) 528-5770.

• Nashville — Vanderbilt University Protocol #VEU002 to study an AIDS vaccine in healthy sero-negative patients. Call (615) 343-2437 for information.

• FDA Protocol #18-A to study concurrent AZT and acyclovir therapy in patients with early symptomatic HIV infection. Contact Lisa Behrens at Burroughs Wellcome at 1-800-722-9292, ext. 5633.

Editor’s note: We do not endorse any treatment or trial; this is not intended as medical advice.

...likeable Opal at the Barn

• continued from page 8

themselves falling in love with Opal. It’s a piece of fluff, sure, but who’s going to hunt? Seely’s not a great actress but she’s capable and immensely likable as the befuddled Opal and, luckily, she’s supported by an experienced and talented cast.

Donna Wright very nearly steals the show with her performance as Gloria Gillick, a gum-chewing B-movie bad girl who, in a voice reminiscent of Judy Holliday, says “I ain’t got no X-ray brain.”

Sean McGinty, ideally cast as bad guy Solomon Bozo, finds himself considering marriage to Opal. He’s never been funnier.

Mikk Mastin, who plays the effete Bradford Winter, is stereotypically uptight and completely unbelievable. Other supporting roles are filled by Brian K. Hol (a pleasant police officer) and Tim Holder (smiling his way through another performance as an unsmiling doctor).
The difference, I think, was in the attitudes of those in authority—the teachers, one mature and accepting, one ignorant and judgmental.

Now if we can just teach all the teachers. •
The Chute
Restaurant & Lounge
In the tradition of yesteryear, with the freshness of today

THE CHUTE WELCOMES
everyone in the gay and lesbian community to visit us and see how we've updated our tradition of excellence. And we'd like to remind you that it's not too early to reserve our beautiful Trophy Room for your private holiday party. We offer full-service catering and bartending.

DON'T FORGET!
Today, Friday, November 17, we once again present Conductors Club Night. Tomorrow, Saturday, November 18, we're pleased to welcome Memphis's Women of Leather will join us here for their Club Night.

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Join the crowd (more than 30 people last week!) Tuesday evenings, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. for free Western dancing lessons. Jim will demonstrate the 2-step, the 3-step, the Line Dance, the Cherokee Fiddle, the Elvira, the Cotton-eyed Joe and many other favorites.

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visit our full-service restaurant Thursday evening, November 23, for our traditional special celebration of Thanksgiving dinner.

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we very proudly present, for the first time in Nashville, Orlando's famed

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Personal

- Scottie, Joe and Joel: Do you miss us as much as we miss you? We think the beach is calling our names...
- Ni-king, W/M, 5'9", 37, 148, short beard, blue, brown hair. Into: Lile, psychikes, tennis, Q-evens. Seek: relationship. Life: Want to wait from Tennessee!

Announcements

That's a tragic way to have people learn about the disease and have people eventually do something about it.

- Elizabeth Taylor, chair of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR), who says the ravages of AIDS have done a better job of making people aware of the disease than have her efforts.

“Coming out of the closet is an issue we haven't dealt with. I hope we get attention for it — but I don't think there'll be any controversy if it's handled sensitively.”

— Executive producer Bill Nuss, of Fox TV's 21 Jump Street, on an upcoming segment in January in which a high school girl will develop a crush on a series regular Judy Hollis, the character played by Holly Robinson.

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Jeann Baez: no ulterior motives — DARE FILE PHOTO

"The core point of my life now is that it's a revelation to be able to sing and enjoy it and not have an ulterior motive when I guess up in front of an audience."

— Jean Baez, considered the "queen of folk" and a sometime-lesbian.

"In 1988, the New York City Police Department recorded 418 incidents motivated by race, religion, ethnic background or sexual orientation, a 78% increase in two years. Over time, the Ku Klux Klan's targets have expanded — they once concentrated on Catholics, unions, supposed communists, blacks and Jews. These days, Muslims, Asians, gays and abortion rights activists draw Klan attention as well."

— DALLAS TIMES HERALD political columnist Molly Ivins, writing about the Klan in a recent issue of TV GUIDE.

"The reason that people are becoming more aware is because there are very few people in the U.S. now that don't know somebody that hasn't been infected by AIDS. That's a tragic way to have people learn about..."