Too good to be true? LBI just may be

by JACKI MOSS
Staff Writer

There's an old saying that, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. This may be the case with an offer made by Life Benefits Inc. (LBI) from Irvine, Texas, and other companies like it.

According to an LBI press release, the company offers a service that allows persons with AIDS to remain financially independent, even when they are no longer able to work. The corporation does so by purchasing existing life insurance policies owned by the terminally ill persons.

"offers a service that allows persons with AIDS to considerations to be made before jumping on this bandwagon.

The company has been in existence six months and, according to LBI spokesperson Tom Hastings, there are no people with AIDS, gay people, or lesbians either employed by LBI or on a board of directors or advisory board.

"told with someone who is gay and he said we didn't need any of them on staff to do what we do," Hastings said.

Carla Cunningham, spokesperson for Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in New York, was aware of several companies of this type popping up around the country but stated emphatically, "We do not support what they are doing for several reasons. First, it appears that they are in it for the money. If it wasn't for the profit, they wouldn't be doing this. They talk a good line of compassion for PWAs but they probably haven't personally met a PWA in their lives."

"A major drawback with this type plan is that once someone does it, the life insurance policy won't be there for the original beneficiary. Often the beneficiary is someone who has AIDS and will be left in a bad situation," said Cunningham.

Integrity responds to media coverage

Williams' ordination not the first, group contends

from STAFF REPORTS

Integrity, the nationwide ministry of and to the lesbian and gay community in the Episcopalian Church, has issued a statement condemning what it calls misrepresentations in the mainstream media about the mid-December ordination to the priesthood of Robert Williams by John S. Spong, Episcopal bishop of Newark.

Integrity president Edgar Kim Byham called Williams' ordination "only the latest in a long series of ordinations of self-affirming, non-celibate lesbians and gays in the Episcopalian church in the last 12 years."

"Since 1977, on average at least five open, non-celibate lesbians or gays have been ordained every year in dioceses from coast to coast," said Byham. "Such ordinations have occurred in the Dioceses of Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, California, Chicago and Western Massachusetts, among others."

Byham asserted that United Press International, Reuters and others in the mainstream press had incorrectly reported Williams as the first non-celibate openly-gay man and only the second such homosexual person to be ordained a priest in the Episcopalian Church.

In January of 1977, Ellen M. Barrett, an open lesbian and the first co-president of Integrity, was ordained a priest by Paul Moore, Jr., bishop of New York, a move that generated controversy within the church about the role of homosexual people in the priesthood. The church's House of Bishops in 1979, "partly in reaction to the controversy, passed a non-binding "sense of the House" resolution condemning the ordination of non-celibate lesbians and gay men. Byham said that the resolution has been widely ignored, and that several leading bishops, including Spong and Edmund Browning, now the denomination's Presiding Bishop, had signed a statement opposing and repudiating the resolution."

During the same month that Ellen Barrett was ordained in New York, the Bishop of California quietly ordained open lesbian Susan Bergmans in San Francisco.

Baptists to fight Journey

Peek says he won't bow to pressure

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Despite efforts by the Nashville-based Baptist Sunday School Board to keep a gay bar from opening its doors, the bar's owner says he will continue to work toward a January opening date.

Jerry Peek, owner of Journey—which opened will be the city's newest nightclub catering to a lesbian/gay clientele — said that work continues on the club at 909 Church Street although a spokesperson for the Baptist Sunday School Board has pledged to oppose his application for beer and liquor licenses.

Bill Leader, attorney for the Sunday School Board, told the Nashville Banner last week that he has been instructed to fight to keep the Metro Beer Board from issuing a permit to Peek.

Peek goes before the Metro Beer Board on Tuesday, January 9, to apply for beer and dance licenses for the bar located across from the old Nashville Gas building between near Ninth Avenue.

The building in which the bar is located is backed by an alley which separates it from the parking lot of the Sunday School Board's headquarters.

"We vigorously oppose what that club represents regarding lifestyle," George Willis, spokesperson for the Sunday School Board, said. "We don't believe this kind of activity is in the best interests of the community."

Already there are two lesbian/gay bars located within walking distance of the Sunday School Board's headquarters — The Gas Lite Lounge and Al's/Victor-Victoria's. According to the Banner, the Sunday School Board is basing its fight against Journey on its perception that Peek's beer license application contains "inaccuracies."

Peek, however, contends that there are no inaccuracies in his application.

"Everything is in order in my application," he said. "They won't be able to trip us up on that."

The Sunday School Board's actions is but one of a series of travails that have plagued Peek during the preparation for opening. Code inspectors for the city have cited him for violations on each of five visits to the club.

Each of those visits were made by a different inspector. That in itself is unusual, sources say, since one inspector normally is charged with a particular job.

After an appeal to the Metro Appeals Board, Peek was given a list "telling me what do to comply with codes." However, a subsequent visit from yet another inspector brought still more directives.

Peek also said that Nashville is just one of the Tennesseans remembering the events that helped to shape our lives during the past decade. For his reflections, as well as those of other, turn to page 6 for this week's installment of 'Eightysomething,' our look at the '80s.

DARE PHOTO BY JIMMY CHILDERS.

Staff Writer

Je cofi. DARE PHOTO BY JIMMY CHILDERS.
**Big events**

**Consclo11111111 Raising**

Warehouse, 1pm. Followed by visit to Memphis Center.

**Voluntaar**

Scream, 168 2nd Av North, Nashville. 7pm. Info (615) 320-0289.

**info (615) 320-0289.**

**Monday, January 1, 1990**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Open House Black and White Men Together / Memphis. 11am - 9pm. Info (615) 726-1461.

**Saturday, January 6**


**Monday, January 8**

Meeting Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance reorganization meeting to consider new bylaws. At 9's a Scream, 168 2nd Av North, Nashville. 7pm. Info (615) 292-4293.

**Consciousness Raising**

Tilt to be announced at meeting. Bring paper and pen. Black and White Men Together / Memphis. 7:30pm. Info (615) 726-1461.

**Friday, January 12**


**Saturday and Sunday,**

January 13 and 14

**Volunteer Training**

Vanderbilt AIDS Project, Nashville. Info (615) 322-AIDS.

**Chattanooga**

**Sundays**

- Metropolitan Community Church Worship service, 3224 Navajo Dr. 8:30pm.

**Mondays**

- Chattanooga CARES Closed support group. 6:30pm. Info (615) 292-4293.

**Thursdays**

- Gay/Lesbian AA Open meeting. Unitarian Church, 3224 Navajo Dr. 8:30pm.

**Clarksiville**

**Thursdays**

- OSDA Austin Peay State University Organization for Support of Gay & Lesbians, group for lesbians and gay men. RM 4, Archwood, AFSU. 4pm. Info (615) 648-7167.
- OSSA Nashville CARES Support Group. 7-8:30pm. Info (615) 523-AIDS.
- Gay Registration Group, non smoking Alcoholics Anonymous. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2101 Kingston Pike.

**Tuesdays**

- MTA Annual meeting. 7pm. Info (615) 523-AIDS.
- Gay Registration Group Circle of Love family and friends support group, 8pm. Info (615) 523-AIDS.
- Gay and Lesbian Student Union/UTK Weekly meeting. 6pm. Info (615) 595-8666.
- AIDS Registration Group HIV+ Support Group. 6:30pm. Info (615) 523-AIDS.

**New Year's Day**

Nashville CARES 5:30pm. Info (615) 292-4293.
- Lambda Group Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and women, Unitarian Church. 6pm.
- Magnet (Married and Gay Network) Support group for married gay men, 5pm and 7:30pm. Info (615) 320-0289.

**Monday, January 8**

Meeting Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance reorganization meeting to consider new bylaws. At 9's a Scream, 168 2nd Av North, Nashville. 7pm. Info (615) 292-4293.

**Consciousness Raising**

Tilt to be announced at meeting. Bring paper and pen. Black and White Men Together / Memphis. 7:30pm. Info (615) 726-1461.

**Friday, January 12**


**Saturday and Sunday,**

January 13 and 14

**Volunteer Training**

Vanderbilt AIDS Project, Nashville. Info (615) 322-AIDS.

**Just like clockwork**

Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info (615) 272-9549.

**Thurdays**

- P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gay) Support group, St. John's Episcopal Church, 322 S Graver. 1st Thursday only. Info (615) 272-1444.
- Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30pm. Info (615) 272-9549.
- In the Light (Women's Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info (615) 272-9549.

**Fridays**

- Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30 and 7pm. Info (615) 272-9549.
- Seriously Sober (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info (615) 272-9549.

**Satuddays**

- Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info (615) 272-9549.

**Murfreesboro**

**Thursdays**

- MTSU Lambda Support group for lesbian and gay students, faculty, staff & alumni of Middle Tennessee State University. 7:30pm. Info (615) 352-7209.

**Nashville**

**Mondays**

- Nashville CARES ARC/AIDS Support Group. 6:30pm. Info (615) 338-1510.
- Lambda Group Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 6pm.
- Magnet (Married and Gay Network) Support group for married gay men, 5pm and 7:30pm. Info (615) 320-0289.

**Tuesdays**

- Nashville CARES HIV+ Support Group. 6pm. Info (615) 352-7209.
- Al-Anon Closed meeting, MCC. 6:30pm. Nashville Woman's Alliance Meeting, at the Book Oasis, 2824 Dogwood Pl. 3rd and 4th Tuesdays only. 7:30pm. Info (615) 883-4003.
- P-FLAG Meeting of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gay. 4th Tuesday only. Unitarian Church. 7:30pm. Info (615) 662-3322.
- Sober Sisters (Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. MCC. 6pm.

**Wednesdays**

- Sex Addicts Anonymous Closed meeting for gay men and lesbians. MCC. 5:30pm.
- Nashville CARES Newcomers Group. 6pm. Info (615) 385-1510.
- Affirmation Meeting for lesbian and gay United Methodists. 4th Wednesday only. 7pm. Info (615) 386-6448.
- Gay & Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting. Belmont United Methodist Church. 8pm.

**Thursdays**

- Family Support Group Vanderbilt AIDS Project. Info (615) 322-AIDS.
- Incest Survivors Anonymous Closed women's meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd. 6:30pm.
- Nashville CARES Visualisation Group. 7:15pm. Info (615) 385-1510.
- Alternatives (Alcoholics Anonymous) Closed meeting for lesbians and gay men. MCC. 8pm.
- Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Belmont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

**Fridays**

- Saxaholics Anonymous Closed meeting, MCC. 5pm.
- Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group Meeting. Belmont United Methodist. 7:30 pm.

**Satuddays**

- Incest Survivors Anonymous Open meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd. 5:30pm.
- Community Dinner Metropolitan Community Church. For all. Info (615) 276-7379.

**Sundays**

- Metropolitan Community Church Worship service, 11am and 7pm. Info (615) 320-0289.
- Incest Survivors Anonymous Closed meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd. 6pm.

**Tri-Cities**

**Sundays**

- Metropolitan Community Church Worship service, 7pm. Holston Valley Unitarian Church. Info (615) 925-4393.

**Tuesdays**

- Support Group Tri-Cities AIDS Project (TAP). For caregivers/families of PWAs, HIV and ARC. 6:30pm. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays only. Info (615) 926-6101 or 753-9647.

**Thursdays**

- Support Group Appalachian AIDS Coalition. For PWAs, ARC and HIV+ in southwest Virginia, including Bristol. TN. 3rd Thursday only. Info (703) 965-0131.

**Statewide**

- Note: Most student groups suspend meetings when schools are not in session. Please contact groups directly for complete information.

**Errata**

- A headline in last week's Cross Country section (Volume 2, Number 51, page 3) should have read "Gay inmates wear red wristbands in Florida jail." We apologize for the error and are glad to correct the record.

- A typographical error caused a sentence in "America number one -- a dubious distinction" in last week's AIDS Update (Volume 2, Number 51, page 10) to read incorrectly. The sentence should have read: "It is known that AIDS is in 177 countries and territories and that only 25 nations have yet to report an AIDS case." We apologize for the error and are glad to correct the record.

**Free publicity!**

Your nonprofit event can be listed free in Dates. Write to Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422, or phone (615) 327-Dare and leave a message. Please include information about time, location, cost, sponsor, and a contact person's name with address and/or phone number for verification. Deadline noon Monday for publication next Friday.
Lesbian helps police clear campus tearoom

PHOENIX — Claiming that men looking for sex in a campus bathroom were not gay but thrill-seekers, a lesbian student at Arizona State University near Phoenix helped police arrest 13 men in a popular campus tearoom, out week reported.

Dona Taylor, a graduate student in communications and former co-chair of the Lesbian and Gay Academic Union (LGAU) provided police with what she called “physical and psychological profiles” of likely suspects.

But Taylor has not been member of the LGAU since 1986, and the group’s current co-chairs said they were unaware that she had collaborated with police until contacted by out week.

Sweden may follow Denmark’s lead

STOCKHOLM — Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlson has advised RFSL, the national lesbian and gay liberation group in Sweden, may follow Denmark’s lead in legalizing gay marriages.

RFSL activists hope that Sweden will become the first country to legalize lesbian and gay adoptions as well, according to a report in SAT WEEK.

Center plans mixed media exhibit by PWAs

NEW YORK — An unprecedented mixed media exhibition is set for January 11 through February 16, 1990 at New York’s Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center.

“A Hundred Legends,” the diverse collection of artworks by people with AIDS will open to the public for the first time: Men and women who have been diagnosed with AIDS or ARC submitted their paintings, graphics, poetry, prose and music, produced during the past two and a half years, for the collection. The exhibition is being presented in conjunction with the publication of the portfolio of “A Hundred Legends.” Proceeds from the sale will be distributed to arts-related activities and cultural groups for people with AIDS by DIFFA (Design Industries Foundation for AIDS).

For further information, contact the Center at (212) 620-7310.

Efforts under way for Nat’l Lesbian Conference

ALBANY, NY — The interim task committee of the National Lesbian Conference met earlier this fall to further define the membership of the steering committee that will guide the conference planning process.

Meeting in Atlanta, this group of 14 lesbians are empowered to plan the conference set for April 24-28, 1991, in Atlanta.

Regional planners will be chosen at regional meetings which are being organized before the next large national planning meeting. The first steering committee session is set 400/ share in the Washington home left to him were lovers for five years and is entitled to the estate. Denson has said that he and McKinney were lovers for five years and is entitled to the estate. The net value of the estate is over $275,000.

But in a September decision, a Connecticut probate judge ruled that McKinney’s widow was owed over $375,000 from the estate, effectively negating Denson’s ability to obtain the share.


Vampire on gay cable show in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, PA — The local Gay Cable Network will begin a five-part dramatic series this month called ONE OF THE LIVING. The series deals with the relationship between vampire Christopher Staller and mortal author Arthur Bloom. It includes discussions between the two characters of gay themes like coming out and homophobia, according to the local gay newspaper, out.

One of the living was developed by Raymond Yeo and David Schremp. It was shot entirely in Pittsburgh and includes a cast of local actors.

Court clears record of sodomy conviction

NEW YORK — A New York State Trial court on December 1 vacated the guilty plea of a man convicted in 1969 under statutes since declared unconstitutional in New York. The court decision cleared his record of the crime of “consensual sodomy.”

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Talk about AIDS.
But talk with people who know what they're saying.

...Baptists v. Journey

...continued from page 1

"The payee was my partner's mother. She received the money, which went nowhere in covering our losses, because she had lent us money to open," Peek said.

Other instances mentioned occurred several months — and in one case several years — after Peek was involved in any business at the locations mentioned.

"He [Laska] said I have a history of being involved in gay bar fires," Peek contended.

Just last week, Laska opened a "non-denominational church" just a few doors down the street. Under Tennessee statutes, beer and liquor licenses cannot be granted to businesses within 50 feet from a church.

Laska was unavailable for comment.

...too good to be true?

...continued from page 1
don't have to take."

Another aspect to consider is that when asked if any recognized PWA group, AIDS activist group, gay or lesbian group supported or sponsored LBI, Hastings said no, but that the Dallas Gay Alliance refers clients to them, so that, in effect, support.

Pam Merrifield, an attorney and executive director of Dallas Legal Hospice who works in coordination with the Dallas Gay Alliance said, "It is not entirely true that Life Benefits would say we endorse or sponsor the group. We simply say that it is important to know all the facts before you decide to do this or not. If someone comes to me and asks about it, I'll talk with them about it and give them the phone number, but we don't officially sponsor this type organization. We are not for or against it."

A person answering the phone at Dallas Gay Alliance said that he was familiar with LBI but, "We don't put their brochures out with all the other pamphlets. People who ask about it can get information on it. I guess it's a good thing if you really need it, but we don't really like it and see it as a last resort."

Merrifield said that she recommends that people consult their attorney before agreeing to this kind of offer.

"People need to know all the facts — facts like the IRS considers this kind of lump sum money taxable and once the IRS has their share, you are left with even less of the benefit that when you started," she said.

Although Hastings said that, according to the Attorney General of the State of Texas, LBI has "no problems from the legal standpoint," Merrifield said that the Attorney General's office will keep "an eye on the company."

Hastings was correct when he said that no recognized PWA, AIDS, gay or lesbian organization sponsored or endorsed LBI. In fact, very few of the leaders in the AIDS battle have even heard of LBI.

Spokespersons from the National Association of People Living with AIDS, American Foundation for AIDS Research, AIDS Action Council and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force were all unfamiliar with the organization.

A person at National AIDS Network said he had heard of something like it, but had no first-hand information.

Hastings attributes this lack of endorsement on the fact that many of the groups receive state or federal money which he said prohibits them from endorsing a private enterprise.

"If we know how the offer from LBI works, a PWA applies to LBI and if their life insurance is an individual policy (not a group one) that LBI feels is workable, an LBI physician and psychiatrist or psychologist examines the PWA and his or her medical records to determine life expectancy and mental competency."

Once the PWA meets the LBI requirements, LBI has the PWA and existing beneficiary sign papers exchanging a percentage of the face value of the policy to be paid to the PWA for a waiver of rights by the beneficiary and making LBI the beneficiary.

In general, PWAs with a life expectancy of one year or less receive 60% of the face value of the policy; 55% with a life expectancy of one to two years, and 50% with a life expectancy of two to three years.

The closing transaction is videotaped "to make sure no one comes back on us wanting benefits we didn't agree to," Hastings said.

There is a 15-day right of recision in which the PWA may pay back LBI for all money received and reinstate their insurance policy as it was previously should the PWA change her or his mind.

LBI said they have already processed 25 to 30 applications and said the process from preliminary application to funding takes about three to four weeks.

People with AIDS interested in this offer should consult an attorney to learn what impact it may have upon their specific situation before going into a contract of this type. LBI may be reached at (800) 969-6000.

...Integrity responds

...continued from page 1

While Williams is the first person in the Diocese of Newark to declare himself a non-celibate homosexual at the time of ordination, there is an active group of lesbian and gay clergy in the diocese. One of the most widely known openly gay priests in the U.S. is Integrity National treasurer L. Paul Woodrum, a priest in the Newark Diocese.

"Since Integrity's founding in 1974, scores of lesbian and gay clergy nationwide have publicly declared themselves, and and hundreds more have acknowledged their sexuality in less public ways because of fear of homophobia in the Church," Woodrum said.

The 34-year-old Williams, who has lived with his male lover for the last four years, was a founder of Integrity's Dallas chapter.

DECEMBER 20 - JANUARY 4, 1990
Hendersonville

Rape charges dropped

Rape charges filed in December against a transvestite were dropped last week, according to the Sumner County district attorney's office.

Millissa Fox, 26, was charged "rape (by fraud)" in Hendersonville last week for performing oral sex on a man who said he thought Fox was a woman. After discovering that Fox was indeed a man dressed in women's clothes, the man reported the incident to the police.

"Our office dismissed the rape charge against Millissa Fox last week," assistant district attorney Dee Gay said.

According to police affidavits, Fox was driving down Gallatin Road in Hendersonville shortly after midnight December 12 and persuaded the other man to pull over into the parking lot of a closed business.

Fox performed oral sex on the man, who discovered a short time later that Fox was a man and ordered him out of the car.

Memphis

BWMT plans active January

Members of Black and White Men Together/Memphis have a busy month in store for them, according to BWMT spokespeople.

The new year will be ushered in with an Open House on Monday, January 1, followed by "Food for the Body, Food for the Soul," on Saturday, January 6.

The day's events begin with brunch at 1 p.m. at the Spaghetti Warehouse, then will move on to the Memphis Center for Contemporary Art, 416 S. Main Street, for the exhibit of works by Antonina Egan and H. Douglas Northern.

The chapter's board of directors meets Sunday, January 7, to plan the group's agenda for 1990, with the first consciousness raising session slated for Monday, January 8 at 7:30.

The topic for that session is being kept under wraps until the meeting.

A variety of other social events are scheduled for later in the month as well as a "Hot, Healthy and Horny Playshop" set for Saturday, January 27.

For details about any of the events listed or about other planned activities, call (901) 726-1461.

Nashville

Orr gets 37-year sentence

Onquinette Orr last week was sentenced to 37 years in prison for aggravated assault and second-degree murder in the death of her 4-year-old son.

Orr, 29, had testified that she is an alcoholic and a frequent user of cocaine and other illegal drugs, but that she does not know how her son, Corie Orr, received more than 40 bruises on his body or the head injury which left him comatose on April 13, 1987. He died the next day at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Orr said the boy appeared to be in good health when she went to work and left him with her ex-lover and housemate Brenda Harris at their home at 1802 Sweetbriar Avenue.

Harris, 29, was convicted on the same charges on December 8, after she testified that Orr caused the fatal injuries when she pushed Corie down a flight of stairs on the night of April 12, 1987.

Under questioning from assistant district attorney Richard Fisher, Orr testified that she and Harris were once lovers, saying that Harris was often jealous of her, even after she ended their relationship, sometimes threatening her with a meat cleaver.

T-GALA to consider changes at January meeting

Members of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) will meet Monday, January 8, to consider the adoption of new and revised by-laws and to elect a board of directors.

The changes are a part of a plan to take T-GALA into the '90s, a spokesperson said.

The meeting is set for 7 p.m. at It's A Scream, 168 2nd Avenue, North, Nashville. For further information, call (615) 244-7346.
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THE RAPID ENTRANCE of a new decade makes many of us sit back and think about the past, as well as what is to come. We all remember what the major news stories were in the ‘80s — AIDS, the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights — but it is the occurrences in our daily lives today which actually impact upon the ‘90s, our tomorrows.

We spoke with several people across the state, to find out what they will remember about the ‘80s. Here are just a few of their responses:

- **Darren Taylor:** “It was the restart of gay politics. People started doing something. People started forming groups, and the movements all began. When I came out, in ‘81, I didn’t know about Stonewall or any of that. Since then gay political awareness has come to the forefront. Now everyone knows.”

- **Mike Lane:** “We’ve come a long way. I could live with the ‘80s.”

- **Dana Alexander:** “The ‘80s were very wonderful for me, and hopefully the ‘90s will be wonderful for everyone else.”

- **Margaret Coble:** “Music has been a big part of my life, so I’ll remember all the music from the ‘80s. But probably the thing I’ll remember best is dealing with the whole process of coming out and being gay in the ‘80s. I was in both high school and college during the decade, so the experiences were interesting. In high school it was much easier because my circle of friends included a lot of gay and lesbian people. But coming to school at Vanderbilt, a very repressed environment, was much more difficult.”

- **Bob McGhee:** “The Berlin Wall coming down. It is a sign of freedom and a sign that people working together can overcome anything.”

- **Mack Ulrickson:** “I realized that happiness did not lie in corporate life. And I remember getting AIDS.”

- **Bob Jones:** “The ‘80s I don’t remember the ‘80s.”

- **Scott Key:** “I felt frustration. I felt that something was going to happen and it never did. I kept thinking that people would get together and start taking each other more seriously.”

- **Pam White:** “The ‘80s brought me out of the closet, and saw a lot of good friends die from AIDS.”

From STAFF REPORTS

Dare photos by JIMMY CHILDERS

“T eightysome friends u who is now my life partner and stepped out of the closet didn’t even know I been in...”
NEW YEAR'S EVE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31
CELEBRATE THE ARRIVAL
OF THE NEW DECADE
AND SAY GOODBYE TO
THE '80S
TIME MACHINE
A JOURNEY INTO
THE GAY '90S
DOORS OPEN AT 8PM
NEW YEAR'S DAY
JANUARY 1, 1990
DOORS OPEN 9 PM

NASHVILLE'S PREMIER GAY DANCE BAR • 2529 FRANKLIN ROAD • (615) 385-9689
Janet Flanner

continued from page 9

Loyalists, Wineapple negotiates this territory deftly, and one of her most fascinating passages concerns Flanner's defense of Kay Boyle against charges of communism and subversion. Flanner's risky and defiant act—she jeopardized her own status as an American foreign correspondent and was severely reprimanded by New Yorker editors—stands as a symbol of Flanner as a moral human being.

Wineapple is, in many ways, very gentle with her subject though she does not conceal Flanner's weaknesses or apologize for them. Janet was often despondent, complained for a lack of the willpower and discipline need to write well, felt unappreciated. Wineapple describes a Flanner that was a loyal friend and indefatigable worker, but who was so consumed by self-doubt that she required constant reassurance from lovers, friends and editors in order to function.

This literary of Flanner's complaints not only becomes tiresome, it presents a puzzle that Wineapple does not solve. Janet was obviously a charismatic, tremendously attractive woman. She maintained intimate relationships with three women over the course of half a century somehow never quite losing an old lover when she gained a new one. In 1971, she was 79 years old and in poor health, but must have been there, Janet the enchanting, erotic being.

...Janet Flanner

with somewhat flat-footed grace by Edward Dubell and Paul Vasterling.

With the exception of the lovely "Waltz of the Flowers," Act Two is generally disappointing, even the eagerly awaited pas de deux of the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier (danced by Karen Portner and Barry Gager on opening night).

The evening's most brilliant dancing came during Act One's pas de deux of the Snow Queen and King. Company members Kathryn Beasley and Keith Scheaffer were ideally suited for LaFontsee's choreography, creating a vision of grace and grandeur in their magical snow kingdom.

Scheaffer, especially, deserves praise for his controlled athleticism—it's by far his best performance to date with Nashville Ballet.

But despite such quibbling, Nashville Ballet's production of The Nutcracker is certain to become an enduring tradition, offering as it does an opportunity for even the most "balletophbic" among us to enjoy the artistry of the dance.

And any performance that is presented with such heartfelt enthusiasm is to be applauded.

From the smallest of parts to the most difficult, the ballet is winningly performed by a talented cast.

It's a superb holiday gift from all those concerned with mounting the magnificent production and Nashville audiences are indeed grateful.

...Janet Flanner

NASHVILLE

Production of

THE NUTCRACKER

by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Choreography by Dane LaFontsee. Nashville Ballet. TPAC's Jackson Hall. Through December 30. Reviewed by JEFF ELLIS Editor
For over 50 years, from 1925 until shortly before her death in 1978, Janet Flanner, writing under the pen name Genêt, chronicled French culture, news, politics and fashion for the readers of the New Yorker. Along with her regular "Letters from Paris," discussions of everything French from food to DeGaulle, Flanner contributed longer profiles of major figures like perfumer François Coty, painters Henri Matisse and Georges Braque; Marshal Henri Pétain, president of Vichy France and writer André Malraux. Flanner's writings were no mere observations, however, For the same 50 years saw the advent of René Clair's Le Chapeau Pleuvoir, Sergei Diaghilev's new ballet at Théâtre Sarah-Bernhardt, read Jean Cocteau's Les Enfants Terribles. Flanner, more than most of the Americans who went to Paris in the '20s, became as much French as she was American.

But Flanner was also the chronicler, for readers of the New Yorker, in those same letters and profiles, of another community. Part French, part American, part British — indeed, an international group of women — this was the community of lesbians who found not only the personal freedom that drew Edith Wharton and Ernest Hemingway to Paris, but also a degree of sexual freedom they could not have in the United States or England. Among the paragraphs about the assassination of French President Paul Doumer, Georges Simenon's latest book and Maurice Chevalier's performances, Flanner drops, nonchalantly, with great compoise, comments on the autobiography of Alice B. Toklas ("Miss Toklas is the friend who lives on the Rue de Fleurus with Gertrude Stein"); fancy dress balls attended by "Miss Dolly Wilde in the habiliments of her uncle, Oscar Wilde" and Natalie Barney, "the amazzone of Remy de Gourmont's letters" and a dramatization of the well of loneliness.

Flanner's own involvement in the lesbian community remained private, secreted by her pen name. References to her own lovers, writer Solita Solano, war relief organizer Noel Haskins Murphy, journalist and editor Natalia Danesi Murray, are rather conspicuously absent from Flanner's public writings. But Genêt made sure that the existence of Barney and Stein, Sylvia Beach, Djuna Barnes, Ro- maine Brooks, Margaret Anderson and others was known. Through her own importance — everyone who was anyone read the New Yorker — she assured that the influence of these lesbian women of arts and letters was known to the world.

Before the publication of Brenda Wineapple's biography, genêt, the only sources of information about Flanner herself were brief references in the memoirs of people like Kay Boyle and Sylvia Beach. Flanner's own explanation of her public writing in collections like Paris Was Yesterday and Darlinghissima: Letters to a Friend, Natalia's edition of her letters from Janet published in 1985.

The letters are wonderful, moving and revealing documents of Flanner's private thoughts. But Murray is not explicit about her relationship with Flanner, the letters cover only the '40s through Janet's death and in genêt Wineapple makes it clear that Flanner guarded her privacy so closely that Natalia knew only what Janet was willing to reveal. Genêt is an essential source, not only for readers interested in Flanner, but for those fascinated, as I am, with the lesbian community in Paris.

Genêt is a comprehensive biography, beginning with Flanner's birth in Indianapolis in 1892, and including substantial information about her childhood and youth, her early relationships with her mother, father and sisters and the pre-Janet lives of her parents and grandparents. This background information, I suppose, necessary.

Flanner was tremendously influenced by her relationship with her mother, Mary Hockett Flanner, who had aspired to be a great actress and who, according to Wineapple, "rather resisted family life and didn't take easily to motherhood, considering it the major obstacle to her career." Janet, who started out as a film critic but wanted to be a novelist, who received an honorary degree from Smith College, was made a knight of the French Legion d'Honneur and received a National Book Award for Paris Journal, struggled all her life with feeling that she had never fulfilled her mother's dreams for her. Still, these chapters are a tedious beginning, a hard 76 pages for a reader not already passionate about Flanner.

WINEAPPLE DOES a much better job of placing Flanner in the context of the expatriate world. A quick sketch of the situation is the only introduction needed. She picks up the characters and events as she goes, not an easy job considering the sheer numbers of people Flanner knew well and the continuous comings and goings of the whole crowd. It would have been easy to get bogged down in the partnerships and un-partnerings of these women, in who did and who did not become disciples of Gurdjieff, who was and who was not sympathetic to Hitler or to the Spanish

continued on page 8
AS A NEW DECADE begins, it offers an ideal opportunity for increased activism and growing interest in lesbian and gay society. Perhaps the most important resolution one can make in 1990 is to take a more active role in the community, letting one's voice be heard along with all the others.

Often it seems that too many of us leave the work and the decision-making to others, depriving ourselves of the experience of involvement and depriving others of our unique perspectives and expertise. Now is a good time to set that attitude aside and to play an active role in our own destinies. The new decade is sure to be filled with change. If those changes are to be good ones for the lesbian and gay community, it is essential that we all work toward a common goal.

An infusion of new blood is needed to jolt our community out of the complacency of the '80s.

INCREASED ACTIVISM is not confined to carrying signs on a picket line or taking part in demonstrations, but comes about from increased awareness, a growing realization of what's going on around us. It might be as simple as writing a letter to the editor or calling an offending radio station. Or it may be, as personal as coming out to a friend. At any rate, welcome to the '90s.

Dear Mr. Herbers:

I read with a sense of pride your article "Sasser signs on as co-sponsor." I feel that perhaps my recent correspondence with Senator Sasser regarding WKDF-FM and anti-gay violence may have helped persuade him to co-sponsor this important piece of legislation. Attached you will find additional correspondence from the good senator.

It is with this letter that I encourage each and every reader to send a letter of thanks to Senator Sasser. I have the proof in hand to show that one letter is worth a thousand words.

Senator Sasser's Washington address is as follows:

Senator Jim Sasser
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Thank you again for your continued support of our community! I wish the best of the holiday season to you.

John Alan Herbers
Nashville

Dear Mr. Herbers:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to WKDF-FM regarding violence against homosexuals. It's good to hear from you.

It is always helpful for me to have the views of my constituents. I will appreciate your continuing to give me the benefit of your thoughts on other matters of mutual concern. Please let me know when I may be of any assistance.

Best wishes to you and your family for a Happy Holiday Season.

Jim Sasser
United States Senator

Dare

SOPRANO

Telling gay stories

by CHUCK FORESTER

Human Rights Campaign Fund Board Co-Chair

ANN LANDERS doesn't usually tell her readers off. That's why it came as a surprise to see the two recent columns where she came down firmly against readers who attacked the idea of gay marriages. One subtle writer from Wisconsin had put the issue right in her face, bluntly: "Those faggots should go back in the closet where they belong."

Ann's response was right on target, stating her shock at the "viciousness and intolerance" of those opposed to legitimizing gay relationships.

Mixed in with the anti-gay sentiments Ann printed were letters of support, many from heterosexuals who knew a gay man or lesbian. One wrote that he had two sons, one straight and one gay. Both deserved the same rights, he said. His response should not have surprised me, because it only confirmed a point that pollsters discovered some time ago: support for gay rights is greatest among those who know a gay person.

Unfortunately, many heterosexuals know only what they learn from the mass media. Ten years later lesbian/gay stories were beginning to appear. Today the power of gay politics and the AIDS epidemic have put us on the front page of every major daily in America and the evening news.

With the exception of a few accurate depictions of gay diversity seen on little-watched PBS documentaries, the majority of heterosexuals have little else.

While few of us will have the impact of a Barney Frank or Garry Trudeau, all of us can make a difference. Too often we are shy about sharing our personal stories with friends, family and coworkers. They, in turn, are reticent, fearful of offending by asking questions.

In some cases family and friends don't know enough about gay people to begin framing the questions they might have. Still, they want to know who we are.

I know from experience the kind of questions they have. When did you discover you were gay? Have you ever faced discrimination? How do you meet other gay people? How did your parents react? Do you enjoy being gay?

All of us should start answering those questions for the heterosexuals who know us. The more we talk about being gay, the more our neighbors, friends and families will understand the need to combat homophobia and bigotry. Our answers will give them information that can replace the stereotypical views of gays and lesbians with a more honest view of who we are. Just as important, our answers can forge new allies in the fight for equality.

It is time we start telling non-gay Americans about who we are. In the process we enrich our lives and theirs.

Our stories are often very interesting. First of all, each of us lived part of our life as two people: as the private, fearful gay man or lesbian and as the apparently straight colleague or friend or child. We have been forced to think long and honestly about who we are. We have some experience in differentiating between what we'd like to believe about ourselves and the truth.

Whether we like it or not, gay men and lesbians are hot news today. After years of effort and struggle, the issues of importance to the lesbian and gay community are now on the national agenda. Decisions that affect our future are going to be made in the next several years. If we want those decisions to be positive, we have to tell the world who we are. We have some experience in differentiating between what we'd like to believe about ourselves and the truth.

SOMETIMES RESIST, but most people who know you want to hear your story. We can make the world we share with others a little less tense and a lot more honest by telling the stories of our lives. It is an important part of building the better place that all of us want to leave for the next generation of lesbians and gay men.

If you could make any movie with Turner and Douglas — two bankable, accomplished actors if ever there were some — would you look at the saddest heart of human sorrow and call it funny? Would you exploit the tragic love gone sour to the point of no return?

Equally tragic, Danny DeVito (the ratings salesman, throw momma from the train) directs your eye through to his vision of human relationships from behind the lens, and he knows how to make a movie. The man can really exploit the camera with wonder that ought to see a better story. For example, when Douglas is freed from his imprisonment in the sauna by Turner, he flops out onto the floor. He has been baked within inches of his life, and as he rolls on his back we see his vision of the world turning upside down. The editing, too, is stylish, the cutting falling right on the mark. A chandelier can take forever to hit bottom.

What a waste of talent, and to say what? I don't want DeVito's version of life. His comedy simply isn't funny.

What's funny about watching a husband stalk his wife in their elegant home with a tire iron?

What's funny about seeing her wake up nursing bruises through the burnt sunlight of day?

What's funny about watching her bitterly bite his love?

All these dire expressions and many more are in theory, but not in fact, offset by the believable romantic and sexual tension between two very attractive actors. Matters are made worse for those of us who really enjoyed JEWEL OF THE NILE for its contemporary, acrimonious, yet romantic, love set down in delight. In ROSES, in a literal twist, Kathleen Turner's character is a gymnast. This makes for some good visual gimmicks such as when she cartwheels down a staircase or swings from her knees from the chandelier in relative assurance. But the desperate realities surrounding these stunts count little against such a sad story.

James L. Brooks produced this mean-spirited movie with Arnon Milchan. Brooks, who directed the gut-wrenching TERMS OF ENDEARMENT and the moving comedy BROADCAST NEWS, must have been seduced by the box office promise of the stars. He much have been seeing stars and dollars to belabor this lack of love.

These characters are basically good people whose love has gone off — his to himself calling it her, and hers to herself calling enough, or lack of it, enough. You see, this movie is very close to real life. Exploiting this heartache is an option, but a bad one. I like black humor as much, or more, than the next person. I wasn't laughing and neither were many of the other Saturday night patrons who are generally primed to have a good time.

The opening credits are a perfect visual metaphor for the whole of the film. The camera moves tightly over elegant white linens that is beautifully textured and exquisitely lit for every nuance of form while tall, sophisticated type in slender black fades in and out. At the close of this sequence the camera pulls back and DeVito blows his nose into what you've been watching. Get the picture?

PLEASE DON'T TAKE this review for fuel to see this movie. Don't go see THE WAR OF THE ROSES. They don't need the money and you don't need the pain.
**MARKET**

**Announcements**

- **CHASE AWAY THE WINTER BLUES:** We're proud to announce FREE PERSONALS. Meet new friends. Start a reading group. Or just say your piece to lesbian and gay Tennesseans, and we'll pick up the tab. Send us your personal ad (up to 200 characters) with the words "free personals" written across the top of the form below, and your ad is free. Don't just sit there — grab a pen and get personal!

Ad must be postmarked on or before January 31, 1990. Don't forget to add $5 for response drawers. We reserve the right to edit or to refuse any ad. Offer not good for announcements, sales, real estate or commercial classified ads.

- It's a Scream! We now have books and lots of stuff you won't find anywhere else. They're here! Black long-sleeve t-shirts with pink triangle. It's A Scream! 168 2nd Ave North, Nashville, (615) 244-7346.

- I know you're out there — a good, honest mechanic. I have an old car that needs your help. Nashville, DARE DRAWER 40.

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

- WANT: If you're reliable and conscientious, we're looking for you for commissioned ad sales in Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville. We're also looking for someone to deliver Dare in the Tri-Cities, our newest delivery area. Great part-time pay, perfect for students, 2nd job, etc. Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, 37204 or phone (615) 327-Dare.

- **LONG HOURS, HARD WORK, LOW PAY.** Dare is accepting applications from writers in Chattanooga, Clarksville, Jackson, Knoxville, Memphis, Murfreesboro, 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) 207-Dare.

**Real Estate**

- Commercial bldg over 1800 sq. ft, lot size 32' X 65', Central Business District. $80,000. Kathy Douglas, TEAM Realty & Auction, Nashville, (615) 229-2189 or 333-3330.

**Personal**

- Personal to Janet: I love you, Merry Christmas, sugarplum, Love, Pat.

- You may have snowed the decorator, but I know one when I see one swish by. If you know, what I mean.

- GWM paraplegic, 37, seeks gentle, understanding companion. Send photo, phone to DARE DRAWER 41.

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- All ads are for two consecutive weeks. $10 for up to 100 characters, $20 for up to 350 characters and so on.
- Please print one character per box. A character is any letter, numeral, space, punctuation mark.
- We reserve the right to edit and to reject any ad. Legible, explicit or suggestive ads will not be accepted. No ad will be accepted without signature and advance payment in full. We assume no responsibility for advertisers claims.
- Response drawings are available. Response will be mailed two weeks after the last appearance of the ad. To answer a drawer ad, write to:
  - Dare Drawer 
  - Box 40422 
  - Nashville, TN 37204-4042

- Ads received by noon Thursday will run the following Friday. Please enclose check or money order for total amount, payable to:
  - Dare
  - Box 40422
  - Nashville, TN 37204-4042

- Questions? Phone (615) 327-Dare.

**LOOSE LIPS**

**More tabloid teasers**

- "When it comes to love scenes, some cast members get a little squeamish. But there will be kissing, and it won't be pecks."
  - David Gabberly, producer-creator of Passions, a gay-oriented soap opera that will premiere on leased-access channels across the country in January.

- "He (Gabberly) has no outlets for it because no network is interested in programming for homosexuals. America will not accept it. We'll find out which companies pay the bills for it.
  - Donald Wildmon, the Tupelo, Miss., minister who heads the American Family Association, on his group's efforts to lead an advertiser boycott of sponsors of Passions.

- "Flamers of the Year: the flag, Steve Gobie and the Brazilian Rain Forest."

- "It's a word to describe somebody that is basically a pain in your life, a program."
  - Rocker Axl Rose to ROLLING STONE about his use of the word "nigger" in the lyrics of one of his songs.

- "I don't need them in my face, pardon the pun, up my ass about it." — The articulate Mr. Rose, this time on homosexuals.

- "I'm done with transsexual whateveres."
  - Talkfest maven Geraldo Rivera, bemoaning his reputation as the king of tabloid TV, on his show's "kinder, gentler" direction for the '90s.
  - Or at least we assume he was talking about his show. Maybe not.

- "The controversy over whether homosexuals should be ordained as clergy and the demand for toleration toward gays are yet other sad indications that modern Christianity is decaying into little more than a high-minded social club.
  - Steven H. Parker, of New Britain, Conn., in a letter to TIME magazine responding to a story "The church's gay clergy.

- "To save herself from becoming estranged with her father, Chastity was looking for the right of participation, not endorsement. Enlightened thinkers who heads the American Family Association, on the church's gay clergy.
  - Philip Beckman, of New York City, in a letter to TIME magazine.

- "I think your article perpetuates the myth that homosexual people have a certain lifestyle for which they seek the church's endorsement, when in fact gays lead lives every bit as diverse as those of nongays and are merely looking for the right of participation, not endorsement. Enlightened thinkers who leads the American Family Association, on the church's gay clergy.
  - Cher, in a letter to TIME magazine.

- "Cher felt she had somehow failed, even though she always knew that having a mother like her would probably make it very, very difficult for the daughter to follow in her footsteps.... She wanted Chastity to like her — sexy. She has always tried to glamorize Chastity, to make her more feminine and pretty.... Cher wanted to keep her thin, because Chastity has had a weight problem. But in her later years as a teenager, Chastity refused Cher's cast-off clothes."
  - More inside scoop from the STAR. If that's the case, we were wondering if we could have that gorgeous Bob Mackie number Cher wore on the cover of TIME some years back.

- "To save herself from becoming estranged from her only daughter, family members have convinced Cher to accompany Chastity to joint therapy sessions in an effort to understand the girl's sexual preference... shared by eight percent (one in 12) of American women."
  - Writers Barry Levine and Kate Caldwell, writing in the STAR.

- "Roseanne Cancels Wedding After Druggie Lover Cuts Her With Broken Bottle."
  - More exclusive reporting from the STAR.

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