Crone in Tennessee to promote NLC

by JACKI MOSS
Staff Writer

Founders of the National Lesbian Conference (NLC), scheduled for April 1991, are organizing grassroots groups across the country to pull off what may very well be an historic event.

According to Michelle Crone, one of the founders of the NLC, the conference "is a means of providing a space for lesbians of diverse backgrounds to find the common threads among us. We hope to develop a vision about what is truly important for lesbians and determine the important issues and concerns of lesbians. From this forum, we want to set goals for a lesbian reality and agenda."

Crone was in Nashville recently to kick off and organize local efforts toward making the conference successful.

She said she expects around 5,000 women from all aspects of lesbian life to be in attendance, with particular efforts toward including lesbians of color and disabled lesbians.

"We want to create a space for those voices usually left out. When we talk about diversity in the conference, we mean it. We want to make sure we put into action what we put into rhetoric," Crone said.

Roosie Abelson, the southern contact for the NLC, said, "The purpose of the conference is to create a

*continued on page 6*

Schlafly,Weddington debate abortion issue

Controversial debate at Memphis State attracts more than 1,200

from STAFF REPORTS

Some 1,200 people filled the grand ballroom of Memphis State University's student center last Thursday night for a debate between Sarah Weddington and Phyllis Schlafly.

Weddington is a leader of the fight for pro-choice forces, which includes pro-abortion and women's rights groups, and Schlafly is a symbol of conservative politics, such as the pro-life movement and the anti-Equal Rights Amendment forces.

Weddington began her opening statement by saying she was frightened by the way the winds of choice are blowing in the United States. She said that she felt the issue of choice and individual rights had been taken from the courtroom and brought into the political ring.

"It is now up to each person to fight the battle for a woman's right to a safe and legal abortion," she said. "If you are silent, your silence will be heard."

Weddington was the lawyer who, at the age of 26 in 1973, originally argued the case of Roe v. Wade before the United States Supreme Court.

At the time of Roe v. Wade, she argued three key issues:

* Does pregnancy impact fundamentally upon a woman's life?

* Is there a right of privacy issue for the pregnant woman?

* Does the state have a compelling reason to regulate the pregnant woman?

Weddington emphasized that the Webster v. Reproductive Health Services case, just recently decided by the Supreme Court, allows issues of religion and private beliefs to be imposed upon the entire population. Instead, more resources ought to be put into preventive measures, such as education, housing and funding of human service programs, she said.

Schlafly opened her argument with a few comparisons of how free choice is not allowed in the United States, citing such examples as: no smoking allowed in public buildings, drunk driving laws and laws against spousal abuse.

She claimed that pro-choice advocates support the "money making" operations of places like Planned Parenthood and abortion clinics.

The basis of her argument was

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Lesbians/gays protest

Civil rights groups demonstrate against Coalition for Traditional Values in D.C.

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Lesbian and gay organizations, along with other civil rights groups, held a press conference, rally and march in the nation's capital last week to protest the Coalition for Traditional Values (CTV), which was holding a symposium called "The National Task Force for the Preservation of the Heterosexual Ethic" in Washington.

An estimated 750 lesbians and gay men rallied against CTV and its leader, Louis Sheldon, at a demonstration against homophobia in Washington's Dupont Circle. The demonstration was sponsored by a coalition of Washington-based lesbian and gay groups and other civil rights organizations.

"Threats to the American family do not come from the desire of lesbians and gay men to create loving relationships," said Ivy Young, director of the Family Project of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) during a press conference. "No, the threat to the family is poverty and economic injustice, ignorance and inadequate education, homelessness and hunger. Let Mr. Sheldon and the Coalition for Traditional Values put what energy and resources they have into combating these scourges of American family life. We would all benefit from this agenda."

The Dupont Circle rally was followed by a march up Connecticut Avenue to the Sheraton-Washington Hotel, site of the CTV symposium. Demonstrators sealed a main entrance to the hotel and held an impromptu rally followed by a candlelight vigil in memory of victims of anti-lesbian/gay hate crimes.

CTV and Sheldon's positions on creationism in the classroom, abortion and homosexuality have resulted in considerable media attention for the group. Sheldon has been referred to in the media as the "son of Pat heel." CTV was actively involved in the repeal last November of the domestic partnership referendum that had been approved by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, as well as the repeal of the lesbian and gay civil rights ordinance in Irvine, California.

William Allen, former chair of the United States Civil Rights Commission, was forced to resign amid controversy which followed his appearance at a CTV symposium. Allen spoke on "Blacks, Homosexuals, Animals: What is a Minority?" at the Orange County meeting.

In addition to Young, other

*continued on page 6*
### Dates

#### Big Events

**Chattanooga**
- **Sundays**
  - Metropolitan Community Church Worship service. 3224 Navajo Dr. 8:30pm.

**Mondays**
- Chattanooga CARES Closed support group. 6:30pm. Info (615) 266-2422.
- Gay/Lesbian AA Open meeting. Unitarian Church, 3224 Navajo Dr. 8pm.

**Thursdays**
- Gay/Lesbian AA Open meeting. Unitarian Church, 3224 Navajo Dr. 7pm.
- Gay/Lesbian AA No-smoke meeting. Unitarian Church, 3224 Navajo Dr. 7pm.

**Clarksville**
- **Thursdays**
  - Austin Peay State University Organization for Support of Gays & Lesbians, group for lesbians and gay men. Rm 4, Archway. APSU. 4pm. Info (615) 648-7107.

**Knoxville**
- **Sundays**
  - Metropolitan Community Church Worship service. 6pm. Corner Wayeber & Lovins. Info (615) 321-5546.

**Mondays**
- Side Response Knoxville PWA Support Group. 7-8:30pm. Info (615) 523-ADS.
- Gay Gratitude Group Open, nonsmoking Alcoholics Anonymous. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2219 Kingston Pkys. 7pm.

**Tuesdays**
- Side Response Knoxville Circle of Love family and friends support group. 8pm. Info (615) 523-ADS.
- Gay and Lesbian Student Union/UTI Weekly meeting. Info (615) 595-5680.

**Wednesdays**
- Side Response Knoxville HIV Support Group. 6:30pm. Info (615) 523-ADS.

**Fridays**

**Memphis**
- **Mondays**
  - Gay Alternative Hour Radio show, WEVL-FM 90. 6-7pm.
  - Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info (901) 272-9549.

**Tuesdays**
- Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info (901) 272-9549.

**Wednesdays**
- Agape New Life Church Bible study. 7pm. Info (601) 276-1872.

#### Just like clockwise

- **邗chos** (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info (901) 272-9549.
- **Thursdays**
  - P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Support group. St. John’s Episcopal Church, 322 S Green. 1st Thursday only. Info (901) 781-1444.
  - Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30pm. Info (901) 272-9549.
  - Into the Light (Women’s Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 6pm. Info (901) 276-7379.

- **Fridays**
  - Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30 and 10pm. Info (901) 272-9549.
  - Seriously Sober (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info (901) 272-9549.

- **Saturdays**
  - Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info (901) 272-9549.

- **Sundays**
  - Agape New Life Church Sunday School, 9:30am. Worship services, 1st and 2nd and 4th Sunday only. Info (901) 276-1872.
  - Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info (901) 272-9549.

#### Murfreesboro
- **Fridays**
  - MTSU Lambda Support group for lesbian and gay student, faculty, staff and alumni of Middle Tennessee State University. 6pm. Info (615) 392-7639.

#### Nashville
- **Mondays**
  - Nashville CARES ARC/AIDS Support Group. 6:30pm. Info (615) 386-1510.
  - Lambda Group Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians, Unitarian Church. 8pm.
  - MAGNET (Married gay and network) Support group for married gay men. 1st & 3rd Mondays only. MCC. 7:30pm. Info (901) 392-0288.

- **Tuesdays**
  - Nashville CARES HIV Support Group. 6pm. Info (615) 386-1510.
  - Al-Anon Closed meeting. 6pm. Info (615) 386-1510.
  - Nashville Women’s Alliance Meeting. At the Book Oasis, 2804 Dogwood Pl. 3rd and 4th Tuesdays only. 7:30pm. Info (615) 983-4833.
  - P-FLAG Meeting of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. 4th Tuesday only. Unitarian Church. 7:30pm. Info (615) 662-0332.
  - Sober Sisters (Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. 8pm.
  - GCN Vaxcom cable channel 35. 9pm.

#### Tri-Cities
- **Sundays**
  - Gay AA 4pm. Holston Valley Unitarian Church.
  - Metropolitan Community Church Worship service, 7pm. Holston Valley Unitarian Church. Info (615) 926-4939.

- **Tuesdays**
  - Support Group Tri-Cities AIDS Project (TAP). For caregivers/families of PWAs, HIV+, and ARC. 6:30pm. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays only. Info (901) 982-9101 or 753-9647.

- **Thursdays**
  - Support Group Appalachian AIDS Coalition. For PWAs, ARC, HIV, and HIV+ in southwest Virginia, including Bristol, TN. 3rd Thursday only. Info (703) 985-3131.

#### Errata
- Last week’s Local Color (Vol. 3, No. 5, p. 3) contained an incorrect headline. It should have read “ACLU plans skills workshop.”
- In last week’s Screens (Vol. 3, No. 5, p. 12) contained a nonsensical sentence due to a proofreading error. It should have read: “Why choose such a script that looks at the lives of those who make no substantive change, reveal no vision, and, worst of all, give no entertainment?”
- We apologize for the errors and are glad to correct the record.
Memphis
Mr. Leather Tennessee to be chosen at April contest
The first Mr. Leather Tennessee contest, an official preliminary to the International Mr. Leather competition, will be held in Memphis April 5-8.
Contestants from throughout the mid-south are encouraged to enter the contest. Entrants must be at least 21 and a United States resident. All contestants must accompany a $25 registration fee. Deadline for entries is March 31.
The winner will receive $500 and other sponsor participation awards and be eligible to compete in the International Mr. Leather contest in Chicago in May.

Nashville
Jews in English caricature during the 18th and 19th centuries. It will examine the ability of the caricaturist to transform his subject matter by the exaggeration of particular features. The lecture will look in detail at the graphic depiction of Jews in English caricature during the 18th and 19th centuries. It will examine the ability of the caricaturist to transform his subject matter by the exaggeration of particular features. The lecture will be preceded by a coffee and bagel reception at 9:15 a.m. Admission is $2 for JCC members and $3 for non-members.

Oak Ridge
ACLU hosts annual meeting
Oak Ridge Chapter of the ACLU will host the event Wednesday, March 28, in Room B of the Oak Ridge Civic Center at 7:30 p.m. In addition, members of the chapter's board of directors will be elected at the meeting. For further information, call (901) 483-5680.

Tri-Cities
Weinberg in Johnson City to meet ACLU members
Hedy Weinberg, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Tennessee, will be the guest speaker for a public meeting to discuss the ACLU's 1990 agenda at Holston Valley Unitarian Church in Johnson City, Tuesday, February 21 at 7:30 p.m. In addition, members of the chapter's board of directors will be elected at the meeting. For further information, call (615) 483-5680.

Nashville
Cultural arts lecture to consider "Jews in English Caricature"
The Jewish Community Center's Cultural Arts Department's 1990 Lecture Series opens Sunday, February 18.
Led by Vanderbilt University English professor, Dr. Frank Felsenstein, the program will look in detail at the graphic depiction of Jews in English caricature during the 18th and 19th centuries. It will examine the ability of the caricaturist to transform his subject matter by the exaggeration of particular features.
The lecture will be preceded by a coffee and bagel reception at 9:15 a.m. Admission is $2 for JCC members and $3 for non-members.
Felsenstein is a visiting professor from the University of Leeds. His most recent publication is the book A PARADIGM OF OTHERNESS: ANTI-SEMITIC STEREOTYPES IN 18TH CENTURY ENGLISH POPULAR CULTURE.

Mardi Gras at 5 Points Depot
Nashville's Metropolitan Community Church will host its second annual Mardi Gras Ball at 5 Points Depot, 11th and Woodland Streets in Nashville, on Saturday, February 24 at 9 p.m. Costumes are optional, although awards will be presented for best costumes, with the winners given the titles of King and Queen. Entertainment and dancing is also planned. A light buffet will be served after 9 p.m., with a special creole menu offered at the restaurant from 5 to 9 p.m.
For information, call Steve Russell at (615) 228-6988.

GCN airs 'Forbidden Passions'
Gay Cable Network/Nashville will present the pilot for a new gay-themed soap opera, FORBIDDEN PASSIONS on Tuesday, February 27 at 9 p.m. The controversial program will be aired on cable systems in major U.S. cities during the coming year. The GCN cablecast is on Viacom channel 35 in Nashville.

Oak Ridge
ACLU hosts annual meeting
Oak Ridge lawyer George Barrett, a cooperating attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), will speak about the ACLU's involvement with the Ku Klux Klan's efforts to march in Pulaski, during the annual meeting of the Oak Ridge chapter.
The Oak Ridge Chapter of the ACLU of Tennessee will host the event Wednesday, March 28, in Room B of the Oak Ridge Civic Center at 7:30 p.m. In addition, members of the chapter's board of directors will be elected at the meeting. For further information, call (615) 483-5680.

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JAMAICA. The perfect gift.
Tennessee's first all-gay tour!
$985 includes all this:
Airfare from Atlanta
April 28 – May 3, 1990
Meals • Wine with lunch & dinner
All bar drinks & cigarettes
Horse-riding • Nude beach • Sunfish
sailing • Scuba diving & lessons
Discothèque • Piano bar
Low add-on airfares from your airport!
Space limited • $100 holds your spot
1700 4th Avenue South, Nashville 615/256-9681
Horse riding • Nude beach • Sunfish
Meals • Wine with lunch & dinner
April 28 - May 3, 1990
$985 includes all this:
Airfare from Atlanta
Tryouts Saturday and Sunday, February 17 and 18
Tennessee's first all-gay tour!
All bar drinks
Discothèque • Piano bar
21 0 25th Ave North, Nashville
Juanita's
Valentine's Beer Blast
Wednesday, February 14
$3.00 • 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Don't forget to sign up for Zippers softball!
Tryouts Saturday and Sunday, February 17 and 18
Flowers for all occasions. Place your order early for guaranteed Valentine's Day delivery. Roses $45/dozen arranged $35/dozen boxed
Minnie Bruce Pratt is among the writers awarded $20,000 creative writing fellowships by the National Endowment for the Arts. — DAVE FILE PHOTO
NEA announces 97 creative writing fellows
WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Endowment for the Arts has announced that each of 97 grantees will be awarded $20,000 creative writing fellowships for fiction, poetry and creative non-fiction. Among the recipients are lesbian writers Audre Lorde and Minnie Bruce Pratt, and Nashville resident James M. Brock.
"It is our hope that these grants will free writers to follow their vision, wherever it takes them," said NEA chair John Frohnmeyer. "By assisting so many writers from so many parts of the country, the Endowment hopes to play some small part in nurturing a literature that truly reflects the immense diversity of the United States."
Feminist health writers sought for newsletter
WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Women's Health Network, the only national organization devoted exclusively to women's health, is looking for writers for its bimonthly newsletter, THE NETWORK NEWS.
Prospective writers should: write reviews of books, films and other resources on women's health topics; write articles about women's health topics; write letters responding to articles in the newsletter; send them "health news tidbits" from other publications; and send them graphics, such as cartoons, photographs and line drawings.
Send contributions to: Editor, National Women's Health Network, 1325 G Street, N.W., Lower Level, Washington, D.C., 20005, or phone (202) 347-1140.
AIDS may be motive in inmate injury
NASHVILLE — Investigators are looking into the possibility that a state prison inmate injured by a bomb planted in a radio may have been attacked by inmates who thought he had AIDS.
Rickey Moorman, 41, underwent surgery to his right arm last week at Meharry-Howard hospital after he was wounded.
Moorman was being treated for burns and cuts to his right arm after an explosive device inside a portable radio blew up in his prison cell, THE TENNESSEAN reported.
Asked if Moorman may have been thought to have the AIDS virus, warden Jack Morgan said, "Step one is that has not been proven to be a fact. I don't know that he's been tested or know any reason why he should be tested."
Reagan does TV spot on pediatric AIDS
LOS ANGELES — Former president Ronald Reagan, criticized during his administration for his response to the AIDS crisis, says he's become more understanding about the disease.
"We all grow and learn in our lives," Reagan says in a public service announcement for the Pediatric AIDS Foundation. "And I've learned that all kinds of people can get AIDS. Even children."
The TV spot was directed by former starky and mother star Paul Michael Glaser, whose wife and son have tested positive for the HIV virus and whose 7-year-old daughter died of AIDS.
Greensboro city council reverses pro-gay vote
GREENSBORO, N.C. — In an unscheduled vote three days after Christmas, the Greensboro city council reversed its decision to protect lesbian and gay city employees from job discrimination.
Leaders of the Guilford Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Equality, which waged a two-year fight to get the words "sexual preference" included in city personnel policy, say the group will mount an intensive campaign to reverse the vote, Miami's THE WEEKLY NEWS reported.
"The outcome of this is massive," said Alliance spokesperson Marnie Thompson. "It isn't just the usual gay people who are mad about it."
Six arrested in Michigan sting operation
HOLLAND, Mich. — Sheriff's deputies — in an operation involving a gay informant, shirtless police officers, a teenage decoy and a list of local homosexuals — have arrested four school employees and two other men near here, charging five of them under the state's "gross indecency" statute.
The operation began, sources say, several months ago when a gay man, Tim Van Denbelt, plea-bargained a sex offense case in months ago when a gay man, Tim Van Denbelt, plea-bargained a sex offense case in
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The operation began, sources say, several months ago when a gay man, Tim Van Denbelt, plea-bargained a sex offense case in
exchange for a promise to help police find gay men who might be having sex with minors.
Among other activities, Van Denbelt reportedly provided police with a list of local gay men and arranged a party at the home of Garry Miller and Stanley Van Kolken. Miller works for the Ottawa Area Community Education Consortium and Van Kolken is a teacher in the Grand Haven Public Schools.
Representatives of the Michigan Organization for Human Rights (MOHR) and the American Civil Liberties Union have denounced the operation.
Gay priest fired amid media attention

NEWARK, N.J. — At the request of the board of Oasis, a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark with the lesbian and gay community, J. Robert Williams has resigned as executive director.

Williams has also been suspended from performing all priestly functions by his bishop.

Williams was ordained on December 16, 1989 by John S. Spong, Bishop of Newark, in a highly publicized service. The intense media attention was based on the mistaken notion that Williams' ordination was the first of an openly non-celebate gay man in the Episcopal Church. In fact, it was the first such in the Diocese of Newark.

During a conference in Detroit, Williams said that "monogamy is as unnatural as celibacy." The media coverage of his remarks led to the decision by Oasis to ask for Williams' resignation, citing "irreconcilable" differences.

Transmitting AIDS could bring murder charge

FRANKPORT, Ky. — A person who gives an uninfected sexual partner AIDS, resulting in the partner's death, could be charged with murder under a bill introduced last month in the Kentucky House of Representatives.

The measure, House Bill 425, would also allow the Cabinet for Human Resources to detain people infected with sexually transmitted diseases in hospitals through court orders, the LOUISVILLE COURIER-JOURNAL reported.

The bill also calls for less controversial measures, including extensive education programs for state and local agencies and mandatory AIDS training for health professionals.

But Ron Jerrell, director of the Kentuckiana People with AIDS Coalition in Owensboro, said the sections calling for criminal charges and court-ordered detentions "don't make any sense. This will not help anyone with AIDS."

The bill is sponsored by Rep. Paul Mason (D-Whitesburg). His daughter, Belinda Mason, who contracted AIDS from a blood transfusion in 1987, is a member of the National Commission on AIDS.

Under Mason's bill, anyone aware of being infected with a sexually transmitted disease could be charged with a misdemeanor if she or he has sexual intercourse with someone who doesn't know of the infection.

Maryland bill bans anti-gay bias in state jobs

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A state senator from Baltimore has introduced a bill in the Maryland state legislature which would ban discrimination in state employment practices, based on sexual orientation, THE WASHINGTON BLADE reported.

Democratic Sen. Julian Lapides said he introduced Senate Bill 413 at the request of a woman who called him after Towson State University asked her about her "sexual preference" on an employment application. He said he did not work with any lesbian or gay lobbying organizations in drafting the bill.

Lapides has supported gay rights initiatives before. He introduced a bill to repeal the state's sodomy statute following the Supreme Court's HARDWICK v. BOWERS decision. That repeal effort passed the Senate but failed in the House.

Lapides said he "can't see any reason" why SB 413 should fail "other than homophobic reaction of legislative bodies in election years."

Jones becomes NYC's first gay commissioner

NEW YORK CITY — Openly gay psychiatrist Billy E. Jones was named last month as the new commissioner of mental health by New York mayor David Dinkins.

Jones, 51, serves as medical director of the Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center in the Bronx. A graduate of Howard University, Jones is credited with raising, through numerous academic writings and articles, important issues about mental health services for urban blacks.

North Carolina group awarded 'safe sex' grant

RALEIGH, N.C. — The state of North Carolina has approved $37,745 from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to support an AIDS education project for gay and bisexual men.

The project, to be called "Friends for Life," is scheduled to begin in April 1989, includes a three-part advertising campaign, a newsletter about AIDS programs and therapies, and the writing and designing of an AIDS risk-reduction brochure targeted specifically to the gay communities.

The grant proposal, submitted by the fund in April 1988, includes a three-part advertising campaign, a newsletter about AIDS programs and therapies, and the writing and designing of an AIDS risk-reduction brochure targeted specifically to the gay communities.

"Our campaign, which is scheduled to be launched on Valentine's Day weekend, is called 'Friends for Life,'" said Janelle Lavelle of Greensboro, grant administrator. "We will be using many different methods to reach the state's gay men with message that we are our own most valuable resource in this epidemic."

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Former President Ronald Reagan says his understanding of AIDS has deepened. For details, see page 4. — DARE FILE PHOTO
1990. The once-in-a-decade U.S. Census is coming, and it could help bring about radical changes in American attitudes and law by documenting our lives, our very existence. Sociologists suggest that the Leave It To Beaver nuclear family of husband-and-wife-and-two-kids is outnumbered as much as eight-to-one in the U.S. by nontraditional families, including lesbian and gay families—our families. But we need documentation of our numbers to counter the spineless, hate-spewing politicians and indifferent mainstream media who continue to deny that we are here. When you fill out your 1990 U.S. Census forms, be sure to check the box marked "unmarried partners," if you’re living with your lover or significant other. Stand up and be counted.

Michelle Crone

continued from page 1

lesbian agenda, identifying our issues and developing strategies for achieving the goals; to celebrate our lives and lifestyles as working women struggling to find jobs and build careers as artists, mothers, jocks, lovers and the many other paths lesbians are pursuing as women and lesbians; and to show the rest of the world lesbians are not just spinsters tucked away here and there. We are plentiful. We are passionate. We are political. We are powerful. We are a force to be reckoned with.

Crone said that grassroots groups are being formed across the country to determine the issues, goals, concerns and resources of as wide and inclusive a lesbian population as possible.

"The regional groups establish channels of communication that feed into the national conference level and impact the conference itself. We need to hear from lesbians across the country through these groups and also to find out what resources they have available. Resources include, of course, money and fund-raising ideas, but resources also include lesbians who are willing to work on committees and lesbians who want to perform or speak at the conference," she said.

Any person has an idea for a workshop or would like to perform may send a brief description of the workshop or your performance to the national office for consideration.

"We are very interested in hearing about just about anything that focuses on lesbian issues or life," Crone said.

Schlafly/Weddington debate

continued from page 1

the issue of fetus versus baby — is the point of conception the origin of human life? Schlafly continued her analogies by comparing the environment of an astronaut in space to the environment of the pre-birth life form.

Schlafly said more than 4,000 abortions are performed in the United States each day. She closed by comparing the Dred Scott case with abortions, stating that "...even the Dred Scott case, one of the worst decisions in the...United States, did not allow the owner to kill his slaves. It is the job of government to protect the unborn."

During a five-minute rebuttal period, emotions among both pro-choice and pro-life forces reached their zenith.

"There is no surgery I would describe in detail and depth that wouldn't make you sick," Weddington said, emphasizing that pro-choice advocates need to be aware of how pro-lifers are voting. "We are often perceived as being against the right to choose, which is particularly for a minority."

The fight, Weddington said, must start on a personal level and bring together all people who believe in individual rights.

Schlafly's rebuttal came directly to the point of emotionalism by challenging Weddington's ability to address an abortion issue if she had never been pregnant.

She addressed the issue of fundamental impact upon life by stating that pregnancy is a fundamental right to the baby, and that the real issue is if there is a fundamental right to kill a baby.

Schlafly compared the killing machines of Hitler's Germany to the right to have an abortion and claimed that abortion is a money-making racket which is regulated in this country.

"The abortionists are rejecting all limiting bills, even those which deal with time limits, or not allowing an abortion because of the sex of the fetus," Schlafly said.

During a question and answer session which followed the debate, each speaker and their beliefs were challenged by an audience that seemed eager to score a point argumentatively for their own viewpoint.

CTV protest

continued from page 1

participants in the press conference included: John Buchanan, chair, People for the American Way; William Sloan-Coffin, civil rights activist; Laurie Coburn, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG); Tim McPeely, Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF); and Lynne Landsberg, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

"In California, CTV has urged its followers to oppose a state child care bill similar to the federal measure that garnered overwhelming support in Congress," Young said. "Does that stance by CTV aid the thousands of working parents in California who struggle daily to find adequate, affordable daycare for their children? Does it strengthen those families?"

Young compared Sheldon's tactics to those of former Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace and former Georgia Gov. Lester Maddox during the struggle for black civil rights in the South during the 1960s.
ON STAGE

Going parking
TWICE AROUND THE PARK. By Murray Schisgal. Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre. Through March 3. reviewed by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

MICHAEL EDWARDS and Pat McKinney Burton are such winning performers that they're bound to make even the most dreadful shows seem entertaining and the most entertaining shows seem wonderful. With their performances in Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre's production of Murray Schisgal's TWICE AROUND THE PARK, Edwards and Burton prove my point admirably. Playing different characters in each act — each act being a different play, actually — they do their best with a script that could best be described as schizophrenic.

Act One, subtitled "A Need for Brussels Sprouts," casts the pair as Leon Rose, a somewhat down-on-his-luck actor, and Margaret Heinz, a police officer and upstairs neighbor to Rose. They meet when Margaret gives Leon two citations for disturbing the peace (she has an audition coming up that requires pantomiming an opera singer in a commercial for a non-fattening pizza).

As the two spar, sparks apparently fly (although you'd be hard-pressed to see any sparks between the two on opening night) and before you know it, they're in a liplock. And you know that before long, they'll be a romantic twosome. Writer Schisgal's comic one-liners seem forced and predictable — and not all that funny.

Henry and Eleanor
Editor

Despite one sight gag that was truly hilarious, it seems Edwards could have phoned in his performance in Act One, and Burton might actually have done that. That's what is most disappointing. Edwards and Burton are so likable it's hard to imagine any script that they can't make better.

The schizophrenia of Schisgal's script doesn't become apparent until Act Two. In "A Need for Less Expertise," the writer creates some very funny moments for his two characters.

Here, Edwards and Burton play Gus and Edie Frazier, a pair of affluent Manhattanes whose 26-year marriage has hit the doldrums. Attempting to enliven their union through meditation and Eastern-inspired philosophy, Gus and Edie flounder through some hilarious gyrations that are, despite their broadly drawn premises, very true to life.

OBVIOUSLY, Edwards and Burton are more comfortable with their second act characters and save the evening with their charming performances. TWICE AROUND THE PARK is not great theatre, but it is entertaining in its way and contains some laughs. But, perhaps most importantly, it gives you the chance to enjoy two fine performers. Next time, maybe their material will be better.

The production's major shortcomings are the blatant anachronisms that underscore nearly every scene. The most obvious is the fake Christmas tree, festooned with red "satin" bows and ribbons (Christmas trees, as we know them, weren't common until the 15th Century). It's a small quibble, but I still dream about that horrid tree.

Planning to wed Alais to his oafish son John (played rather broadly by Kirk Brown), Henry is upended at nearly every turn by the sleight of hand — and slight of tongue — of his consort, Eleanor, whom he has banished to her own castle and who has her own designs of marrying Alais to her son, Richard (Tom Mullins in a moving performance that is full of fiery emotion). Meanwhile, third son Geoffrey (Thom Byrum in rare form as the romantic twosome) wittily creates memorable characters and save the evening with their charming performances.

THE LION IN WINTER is a richly drawn plot that features some romantic twosomes. Writer Schisgal's comic one-liners seem forced and predictable — and not all that funny.

The Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance
3rd Annual
Out & About Ball
Wednesday, February 14
7:30 p.m.
Journey Restaurant and Lounge
909 Church Street
$4 per person
Mainstreaming gay/lesbian fiction

The main characters in Iona McGregor's DEATH WORE A DIadem are Eleanor Stewart, botany instructor at the Scottish Institute for the Education of the Daughters of Gentlefolk, and her pupil Christabel MacKenzie. The year is 1860, and the Empress Eugenie of France is to visit the school.

Evidently DEATH WORE A DIadem is based on a real school, The Scottish Institute is based on a real school, the Empress Eugenie did visit Edinburgh in 1860 and McGregor's retired detective James McLevy not only existed, but published two volumes of memoirs. Eleanor and Christabel's story is cross-cut with actual passages from Scottish newspaper reports of Eugenie's movements in Edinburgh, and McGregor includes a historical note at the end of the book.

We're sure that St. Martin's must think there's a market for this sort of book. Quite probably there is. They've been publishing books on lesbian and gay topics for years, and their backlist probably includes more lesbian/gay titles than those of all but the largest lesbian/gay presses. St. Martin's is, nonetheless, a mainstream press, motivated more by selling books and making money than by any idea of service to the community.

This is real, doubtful book buyers may say, this is not the mainstream press. They've been publishing books on lesbian and gay topics for years, and their backlist probably includes more lesbian/gay titles than those of all but the largest lesbian/gay presses. St. Martin's is, nonetheless, a mainstream press, motivated more by selling books and making money than by any idea of service to the community. And now, you have a choice: a more affordable third-class subscription rate, and a first-class subscription for those who just can't wait.

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Reviewed by Sherron Dryden

Book Editor

DEATH WORE A DIadem

The Main

Characters in Iona McGregor's DEATH WORE A DIadem are Eleanor Stewart, botany instructor at the Scottish Institute for the Education of the Daughters of Gentlefolk, and her pupil Christabel MacKenzie. The year is 1860, and the Empress Eugenie of France is to visit the school.

As we said, there is no market for this sort of book. Quite probably there is. They've been publishing books on lesbian and gay topics for years, and their backlist probably includes more lesbian/gay titles than those of all but the largest lesbian/gay presses. St. Martin's is, nonetheless, a mainstream press, motivated more by selling books and making money than by any idea of service to the community.

One aside: St. Martin's is not exactly the typical mainstream press. They've been publishing books on lesbian and gay topics for years, and their backlist probably includes more lesbian/gay titles than those of all but the largest lesbian/gay presses. St. Martin's is, nonetheless, a mainstream press, motivated more by selling books and making money than by any idea of service to the community.

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I'm also sure that the sort of lesbian/gay publishing they've practiced in the past -- concentrating on contemporary fiction (where the readers tend to be liberals) and non-fiction, or by "ghettoizing" through series like Gay Books and Stonewall Inn Editions -- is a lot safer than the kink of mainstreaming DEATH WORE A DIadem represents. Therefore, I think it is significant that the lovers in DEATH WORE A DIadem are women, not men; that the novel is set in 1860, not 1990; and that it has a semi-factual base.

It is usually assumed that the general public finds lesbianism more acceptable than male homosexuality. It is also assumed that women are more tolerant of female or male homosexuality than men are. True or not, such assumptions might lead to a decision to test the waters with less threatening lesbian characters in a genre marketed at (less threatened) women readers.

Gay men are also more threatening, and more difficult to write about 'safely' in terms of romance, because of AIDS.

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Amanda Wreckinwith  Michael Todd
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call (615) 266-2422

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(615) 385-1510

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Announcements

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- HELP WANTED: Paid part-time editorial assistant needed for research, rewrite, text entry. Reply Dare, (615) 327-Dare, Nashville.

- Now taking applications for full time cook position. Nashville, (615) 226-6988

- WOMEN: How can Music City not have a Women’s Chorus? If you’d like to form one, write Dare DRAWER 49.

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- Attention lesbians and gay womyn: A night to unite. Lounge, Bare Breast, 2121 2nd Avenue North, Nashville. (615) 244-7346.

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Dear Dare:

I felt compelled to thank you and your staff for producing one of the finest newspapers I have seen in quite some time. Your publication is pleasant to read, intelligently written and technically perfect in production. I wish you all the best in the coming year and I thank you again for making my brief stay in Nashville an entertaining and informative one.

Thank you,

Mark Murphy

Pompano Beach, Florida

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VIEWS

Traditional values?

DURING THE past few years society has experienced a steady pull toward the philosophical right — a return, if you will, to traditionally-held values.

Last week, in Washington, a group of 750 or so lesbians and gay men staged a demonstration in protest of a group meeting in the nation’s capital, the California-based Coalition for Traditional Values. People attending the symposium dealt with the topic of "the heterosexual ethic" once more listened to the hate-mongering rhetoric of homophobic, misanthropic Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.).

In Nashville last week, an estimated 4,500 people gathered at the Grand Ole Opry House at the Opryland amusement park complex to hear the rhetoric of Jerry Kirk, the leader of the National Coalition Against Pornography, as he exhorted Tennesseans to turn back the tide of pornography that he claims threatens to engulf the populace.

These two events, happening several hundred miles apart, represent two sides of the same coin: an attempt by someone who has seized power to incite the masses by using scare tactics.

Dannemeyer, spewing forth venoms of an oncoming gay blitzkreig (which he claims is better organized than Hitler's), inflames the feeble-minded and slack-jawed into a homophobic throng intent on destroying anything or anyone who fails to live up to "their" traditional values.

Kirk, reciting barely-attributed data, facts and figures, paints a bleak picture of a hedonistic society hellbent on destroying the family, while denying the viability of any viewpoint other than Kirk's own.

WHAT BOTH groups have in common, in addition to their scare tactics and careless use of facts, is the threat they pose to the freedom of speech, guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Both groups seek to limit the rights of others, invoking the time-honored tenets of American life: family, God and country.

But what they espouse is something no family should advocate, no God should validate and no country should allow. What they espouse is simply willful ignorance and an abiding hatred for those who don't agree with them or who don't measure up. *
Loose Lips

That darn Suzanne!

Syndicated columnist Carl Rowan, calling sections of the country and in certain kinds of schools, religious institutions, businesses, first step in preventing and combating intolerance.

"I am a happily married heterosexual male. My wife and I have friends who are gay. They are decent, law-abiding citizens who do not molest children, nor do they run around spreading AIDS. They mind their own business and have no interest in converting others to their lifestyle. I find it strange that people who do not know these gentle souls should despise them so vehemently."—John C. of Chicago, writing to advice columnist Ann Landers about same-sex couples.

"I remember you from Central High in Sioux City, and you are too smart to be taken in by the standard homosexual line. It may come as a surprise to them, but, theology aside, the ultimate purpose of mankind is the propagation of the human race. We were not given genitals so we could have fun. They were given to us for the purpose of producing progeny. Nature makes the experience pleasurable to ensure that this will occur. Homosexuals thwart God's ultimate purpose of man, which makes them unnatural and immoral."—Robert H. of Pensacola, responding to Landers' call for letters about the rights of same-sex couples.

"You said the mail from readers about allowing homosexuals to marry ran 2 to 1 against. That figure doesn't reflect reality. Gays are organized while straights are not. This means the homos are able to band together and run up a much higher number on behalf of themselves. I'm sure the public sentiment is more like 20 to 1 against. Your readers should be told this."—A Landers reader from Memphis.

"Sometimes you go off the deep end in your attempt to do good. I wish you'd lay off your random sampling from readers who love to shout off their mouths in print brings out the arrogant, misinformed, self-serving crap we have to put up with on a daily basis, not to mention the name-calling, finger-pointing and staring. I don't see why I should have to justify my sexual orientation to anyone."—A reader from Wichita.

"And now, readers, how do I vote? Should homosexuals be allowed to marry? No. But any long-term monogamous relationship should be entitled to legal sanctions. It is unfair that same-sex couples who live together do not have tax benefits, housing breaks, hospital visiting privileges, corporate health insurance coverage and Social Security death benefits. This has nothing to do with sex, morality, religion or personal biases. It has to do with simple decency and fairness."—Ann Landers.

"I don't care if you're gay as long as you don't try to rape me. I don't care what country you come from as long as, if you're living in America, you live like an American."—Axl Rose, lead singer for Guns N' Roses, reacting to criticism of the group's song "One in a Million" which includes racist and homophobic remarks, during the band's opening act for a Rolling Stones concert in Los Angeles.

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