No funds available
Future dicey for Lentz T-cell count program
by JACKI MOSS
Staff Writer

People in Nashville who depend on the Lentz Public Health Center for their periodic T-cell counts, may have a hard time getting those counts if funds for the program are not donated by individuals and companies.

According to Gary Knight, a private citizen trying to raise money for the program, there is currently no local, state or federal funding for Lentz’s T-cell counts.

“They are doing T-cell counts right now that are being paid for by donations. At one point, Vanderbilt was doing T-cell counts but they had budget restraints that made it impossible for them to fund them any longer. Then there was no funding in the new Metro Health Department budget for them, so now the program is out of money,” said Knight.

“This places a lot of people between a rock and a hard place. People need T-cell counts need to know where they stand and how to adjust medications and when to...

HRCF to give $500,000
Lesbian/gay PAC expects to play major role in 1990 congressional elections

by STAFF REPORTS

The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the nation’s largest lesbian and gay political action committee announced earlier this week that it expects to contribute half a million dollars to candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives for the 1990 campaign season.

“Our ability to make significant contributions to candidates helps maximize the influence of lesbian and gay Americans in key congressional races all around the country,” said Tim McFeely, executive director of HRCF. “We will fight for our health and our rights by electing our friends and defeating our enemies.”

The most current figures available indicate that HRCF has contributed $121,000 thus far to some 46 candidates and incumbents and to five other PACs across the country.

Significant contributions have gone to Senator Paul Simon (D-IL), $2,000; Rep. Sid Yates (D-III.), $5,000; Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), $5,000, Rep. John Miller (D-Wash.), $2,500; and Oregon Democratic challenger Mike Kopetas, $2,500.

PACs are regulated by the Federal Election Commission and are prohibited from contributing more than $5,000 to one candidate per election. Thus, PACs are allowed to give a maximum of $10,000 to candidates who must run in both primary and general elections.

“Lesbian and gay Americans are committed to making a difference through the electoral process. Their generosity has allowed the Campaign Fund to make strategic, early contributions for the 1990 elections,” McFeely said.

“We have gone a long way in countering the pernicious influence of our extreme right-wing opponents. On Capitol Hill, the lesbian and gay community has become a force to be reckoned with,” McFeely added.

Along with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), which held its spring board meetings in Nashville last weekend, HRCF provides a lobbying presence on Capitol Hill for lesbians and gay men.

HRCF is ranked as the ninth largest non-connected PAC in the country and, in 1988, contributed some $400,000 to the congressional campaigns of both Democratic and Republican candidates from around the United States.

Unsolved murders
Overstreet one of 4 killed since ’88

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

While Metropolitan Nashville police search for clues in the brutal February 26 slaying of 21-year-old Aaron Overstreet, lesbian and gay residents of Tennessee’s capital city are wondering if his murder is part of an increasingly frightening pattern.

Within the past two years, police have investigated the murders of four gay men, none of which have resulted in the arrest of any suspects.

Muder Squad detective Mike Smith told Dare Wednesday that police still have no suspects in the February slaying of Overstreet.

According to police reports, Overstreet was found face down in Percy Priest Lake by a vacationing Kroger employee in the early morning hours of February 26. The Davidson County medical examiner’s office said that Overstreet died of gunshot wounds to the head and stab wounds to the chest.

“He had been dead for more than 24 hours and we’re not sure how long he was in the water before he was discovered,” said Gretel Harlan, assistant medical examiner.

Overstreet’s body had been dumped into Percy Priest Lake near the Bell Road boat launch, just off Old Hickory Boulevard. Authorities are still uncertain if Overstreet was murdered at the boat dock, or was killed elsewhere and brought to the boat dock by his assailant, Smith said.

Media reports of Overstreet’s grisly death have caused concern among many Nashvillians, including a man — who asked that his name not be used — who lives near Priest Lake and who himself was the victim of an attack last December 26.

“When I read in Dare about Aaron Overstreet, it really scared me,” the man said. “Not just because they found his body near my house, but because I was attacked in my own home the day after Christmas.”

According to the man, on December 26 he was telephoned by an individual whom he had met several weeks earlier at the Jungle, a bar located at 306 Fourth Avenue, South. The man claims that his caller, who identified himself as “Stefan,” said he was back in Nash­ville and wondered if the man could pick him up at the Greyhound bus station.

The man picked up “Stefan” and brought him back to his home on...

Inside Dare

Battle Scars

Playing around:
Den-Nickolas Smith’s ’Battle Scars’ premières, Onstage, page 8.

In the ‘Steel’ of the night:
Jamie Lee Curtis in one good looking new movie, Persistence of vision, page 7.

In the mailbag:
Do we get letters or what? Box 40422, page 15.
Big events

Are you really what you eat?

Saturday, March 24
Dinner Potluck dinner, followed by Consciousness Raising ARE YOU REALLY WHAT YOU EAT? Black & White Dinner Men Together / Memphis. 6:30pm. Info (901) 726-1461.

Saturday, March 31
Dance HEATWAVE, Gays and Lesbians in Recovery spring dance, DJ, refreshments. Benefit for Gay/Lesbian Recovery Center, Woodside Community Center, 222 Grief Ave, Nashville. 8pm-1am. $3. Info (615) 297-7867.

Sunday, April 1
Season kickoff Music City Sports Association softball league. Opening ceremonies, 1pm. Games begin at Whitfield Park, Nashville. 1:30pm. Cookout following games at The Chute, 2535 Franklin Rd, Nashville, 5pm. Mr. & Ms. MCSA Pagent fundraiser, Warehouse Two, 2520 Franklin Rd, Nashville. 10:00pm.

Monday, April 2
Consciousness Raising Black & White Men Together / Memphis. 7:30pm. Info (901) 726-1461.

We goofed

• Last week's advertisement for The Chute (Vol. 3, No. 11, page 11) inadvertently listed the previous week’s dinner special rather than the current one.
• Last week’s Loose Lips (Vol. 3, No. 11, page 15) erroneously quoted professor and author John D’Emilio. The sentence should have read, “I don’t think that gays ever thought they could ever influence that system, or be a power within it.”
• We apologize for the errors and are glad to correct the record.

Just like clockwork

Chattanooga

Mondays
• Chattanooga CARES Support group for HIV, ARC, AIDS, family & partners. 1st & 3rd Mondays only. 3pm. Info (901) 548-7730.

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) 761-1444.
• Phoenix (Gay Activists Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 5:30pm. Info (901) 272-9549.
• Chime (Women’s Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info (901) 276-7379.

Saturdays
• Gay/Lesbian AA Open meeting. Unitarian Church, 3224 Navajo Dr. 8pm.

Clarksville

Mondays
• Clarksville CARES Support group for HIV, ARC, AIDS, family & partners. 1st & 3rd Mondays only. 3pm. Info (901) 548-7730.

Tuesdays
• aids Response Knoxvile PWA Support Group. 7-8pm. Info (615) 525-AIDS.
• Gay Gratitude Group. Open, nonstigma Alcoholics Anonymous. Tennesssee Valley Unitarian Church, 3219 Kingston Pike. 7pm.

Wednesday
• aids Response Knoxvile Circle of Love family and friends support group, 8pm. Info (615) 525-AIDS.
• Gay and Lesbian Student Union/WEVL Weekly meeting. 8pm. Info (615) 595-8866.

Fridays
• Gay Gratitude Group Alcoholics Anonymous, MCC / Knoxville. 7pm. Info (615) 523-AIDS.

Sundays
• Metropolitan Community Church Worship service, 5pm. Corner Weigier and Lorain. Info (901) 521-6548.

Memphis

Mondays
• Gay Alternative Hour Radio show, WEVL-FM 90, 6-7pm.
• Memphis Gay Coalition Business meeting, 1st Monday, Rm A, Memphis Public Library, Peabody & Maclean. Info (901) 392-4497.
• Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 5pm. Info (901) 272-9549.

Tuesdays
• Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 6:30pm. Info (901) 272-9549.
• Apgo New Life Church Bible study. 7pm. Info (901) 276-1672.
• Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting. Memphis Lambda Center. 8pm. Info (901) 272-9549.

Wednesdays
• Sex Addicts Anonymous Closed meeting for gay men and lesbians. MCC, 5:30pm.
• Rainbow CARES Newcomers Support/ Education Group. 6pm. Info (901) 385-1510.
• One in Ten Support group for gay and straight teens. 6:30pm. Info (901) 885-3554 or GALIL Hotline (901) 297-4008.
• Affirmation Meeting for lesbian and gay United Methodist. 4th Wednesday only. 7pm. Info (901) 356-6448.

Thursdays
• Incost Survivors Anonymous Closed women’s meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd, 6:30pm.
• Family Support Group Vanderbilt AIDS Project. 1st & 3rd Thursdays only. Info (615) 322-4425.
• AIDS / ARC Men’s Group Vanderbilt AIDS Project. 7pm. Info (901) 322-4425.
• Nashville CARES Visualization Group. 7:15pm. Info (901) 385-1510.
• Alternatives (Alcoholics Anonymous) Closed meeting for gay men and lesbians. MCC, 8pm.
• Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Beltont United Methodist. 7:30pm.

Saturdays
• Incost Survivors Anonymous Closed meeting. MCC, 5pm.
• Nashville CARES Family & Caregivers Together Sharing. Alternate Fridays. 6pm. Info (615) 385-1510.
• Alcoholics Anonymous Program Study Group Meeting, Beltont United Methodist. 7:30 pm.

Sundays
• Metropolitan Community Church Worship services. 11am and 7pm. Info (911) 320-0288.
• Women’s Church At Bethesda Center, 1417 Charlotte. 4-5pm. Info (911) 320-1236.
• Incost Survivors Anonymous Closed meeting. First Church Unity, Franklin Rd, 6pm.

Tri-Cities

Tuesdays
• LETSA Lesbians of East Tennessee & Surrounding Areas Social / Support group, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays only. Info Box 906 Mountain Home, TN 37084.
• Support Group Tri-Cities AIDS Project (TAP). For caregivers/families of PWAs, HIV+ and ARC, 6:30pm. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays only. Info (911) 629-6109 or 723-9477.

Thursdays
• Support Group Appalachian AIDS Coalition. For PWAs, ARC, and HIV+, in southwestern Virginia, including Bristol, TN. 3rd Thursday only. Info (707) 986-5131.

Fridays
• Women’s Right Metropolitan Community Church, 7pm. Info (911) 928-4393.
• Men’s Right Metropolitan Community Church, 7pm. Info (911) 928-4393.

Sundays
• Gay & Lesbian AA 4pm. Hebron Valley Unitarian Church.
• Metropolitan Community Church Worship service. 7pm. Hebron Valley Unitarian Church. Info (911) 928-4393.

Free publicity!

We’ll list your nonprofit event free in our calendar. Phone (911) 327-Dare or toll-free (800) 544-Dare, or write to Dare, Box 40422, Nashville, TN 37204-0422. Please include time, location, cost, sponsor, and a contact person’s name with address and phone number for verification. Deadline is noon Monday for publication next Friday.
Nashville

MCSA steps up to bat with opening day events

Music City Sports Association will kick off the new softball season with a full day of festivities April 1, and a full night of softball pageantry — the First Mr. and Miss MCSA Pageant.

Gestures get underway at Whitfield Park at 1 p.m. with opening remarks, team introductions and the first pitch, thrown by Nashville attorney Abby Rubenfeld, co-chair of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) at 1:30 p.m.

The teams participating are: Colette's CC Shooters, The Chorus's Nashville Numbers, 5 Points Depot Stars, Juanita's Zipper's, Warehouse Two Warriors and Clarksville's Office Park at 1 p.m. with opening remarks, team introductions and the first pitch, thrown by Nashville attorney Abby Rubenfeld, co-chair of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) at 1:30 p.m.

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Feminist womyn's chorus forming in Music City

"Nashville Womyn," "Sentimental Womyn" and "Rugged But Right" are just a few of the musical numbers being workshops by the newly formed Nashville Womyn's Chorus.

Sharon Byers, coordinator for the chorus says the group was formed to provide not only an alternative to womyn's traditional tap therapy, but to make beautiful music together.

Plans are to have some members of the group perform at Pride Week activities in June. The directors' goal, Byers said, is to train the group in a broad range of musical idioms.

The Chorus rehearses at the Bethlehem Center Gym at 1417 Charlotte Avenue every Sunday from 4-6 p.m. until April 8 when the time changes to 6-8 p.m. If interested in becoming a member, go to the rehearsal site or call Byers at (615) 353-1336.

Minnie Pearl, Janis Ian co-chair 1990 AIDSWALK

Country comic Minnie Pearl and folk balladeer Janis Ian will co-chair the Second Annual AIDSWALK on April 21.

Both women participated in the AIDS benefit Heart Strings last October, with Ian performing at For Pete's Sake last June. To help in the effort, Kathy Marta will be doing local television and public service announcements with Minnie Pearl.

The goal this year is $75,000 during the 6.2 mile walk. The funds are used to help Nashvillians and Middle Tennesseans whose lives have been touched by AIDS. Step-off is Saturday, April 21 at 8:30 a.m.

For additional information call (615) 329-6473.

Interracial lesbian and gay support group organizing

People of All Color Together (PACT) is forming to support lesbian and gay relationships, whether lovers or just friends, that cross ethnic and cultural boundaries, said coordinator Phil Thomas.

In addition to providing a place for people of all colors to meet and exchange ideas, the organization will also sponsor educational, social, cultural and political activities and events, Thomas said.

An organization meeting will be held Sunday, March 25 from 5-7 p.m. to introduce those interested to PACT. For information, call (615) 885-5054.

Tri-Cities

Wilson to speak at MCC

Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of the Tri-Cities will host the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson as their special guest speaker on April 22. Wilson is currently the pastor of MCC's Mother Church in Los Angeles. She has also served on the Board of Elders for the past 10 years and is known throughout the denomination as a stimulating and dynamic speaker.

For more information call MCC pastor Tam Schult at (615) 926-4393.
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POOL TOURNAMENT Monday, March 26 • $3 entrance fee

Sunday 25¢ draft 4 pm - 8 pm
Monday $2.50 draft beer pitchers all day
Tuesday is Movie Night • 25¢ draft & free popcorn 8 pm - 11 pm
Beer Bust - $3 All you can drink
Wednesday 7 pm - 11 pm Saturday 2 pm - 6 pm
Nashville's Sunday Night Party Place!

1700 4th Avenue South, Nashville 615/256-9681

... Unsolved murders

❖ Continued from page 1

Priest Lake Drive. Some 20 minutes later, "Stefan" attacked the man with a butcher knife and bound his feet and hands using wire coat hangers. The man alleges that his attacker then beat and robbed him, making off with a variety of items, including the man's 1974 Ford LTD, a television set, a videocassette recorder, stereo system and jewelry.

Metro police did confirm that the man reported the attack on December 26. The suspect in that case was described as being about 5 feet-11 inches tall, around 30 years old, with medium brown hair and a mustache. "Stefan" also had a swastika tattooed on one leg, the man said.

"When I read about Aaron Overstreet, it really scared me, because the attack on him sounded far more brutal than the attack on me, but still similar in many ways," the man said.

Since September, 1988, four gay or bisexual men have been murdered in the Nashville area, with the Overstreet case the most recent one to be investigated.

The other unsolved murder cases include:

❖ Computer operator Vernon Lester Larkin, 30, who was found dead on September 7, 1988, in the living room of his apartment in the Hickory Valley area. He was found gagged and bound and lying between a cocktail table and a sofa in the blood-spattered apartment. He had apparently been strangled several times with a blunt instrument.

Larkin had last been seen leaving The Jungle the preceding Sunday with a transient who became the prime suspect in the slaying. weighing around 200 pounds.

❖ Mother of Nashville, by his roommate. Police said the man had "become lost among the homeless population" there.

❖ 34-year-old Barry McDonald's body was discovered on July 12, 1989, in his home at 2003 Upland Drive, in the Inglewood section of Nashville, by his roommate. Police said McDonald had been stabbed some 30 times by a still-unknown assailant. The victim died of stab wounds to the back and chest, according to the police report.

❖ Lentz T-cell count program

❖ continued from page 1

with an increase in the extent of HIV infection.

The T-cell count program is part of Lentz's HIV Plus Program through which people with HIV infection may receive education and comprehensive physical exams.

The program offers confidential HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling at no charge to individuals. Once someone is confirmed to have HIV infection, they may also receive a complete history and physical exam to further evaluate their current medical status, with a special interest in determining the extent of HIV infection.

The HIV Plus Program also counsels people with HIV on good health measures, nutrition and safer sex practices, as well as reassuring them as they encounter non-life threatening illnesses and coordinating direct referrals for individuals who require intensive treatment, specialized evaluation or hospitalization.

Knight said there will be a number of fund raisers in the next several months to help with the T-cell Count Program.

To make a donation to the HIV Plus T-cell Count Program, you may send contributions to Dan McElroy (personal), Metro Health Department, Room 116, 311 23rd Ave. No., Nashville, TN 37203.
Los Angeles

Black C.A.R.E. launches survey for gay/bisexual men

A nationwide survey of black gay and bisexual men has been launched to "let them tell us what life has been like for them...in terms of services, education, facilities and resources they would like and currently have."

Vickie Mays, the project director of Black Community AIDS Research and Education Project (Black C.A.R.E.) said the community is responding "fairly well. We're trying to get about 1,000 responses from across the country."

Mays has requested help from individuals and organizations in getting the survey into the hands of "any black man who has had sex with men."

Individuals can contact Black C.A.R.E. to request single or multiple copies of the survey, at: Black C.A.R.E. Project, 1283 Franz, Los Angeles, Calif., 90024 or by telephone at (213) 206-5162.

New York

'Encyclopedia of Homosexuality' to be issued

Publication of the ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HOMOSEXUALITY has been announced by Garland Publishing.

Issued in two volumes at a cost of $150, the ENCYCLOPEDIA has been several years in preparation. It was produced by Wayne Dynes, professor of art history at Hunter College, in collaboration with 94 colleagues in the fields of literature, history, science, law, psychology, religion and sociology.

Considered far more comprehensive and elaborate than any previous reference work in gay studies, the encyclopaedia is cross-cultural and "trans-historical," with coverage of Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Pacific and preliterate as well as literate peoples.

Washington, D.C.

College freshmen's attitudes toward changing

Support for legislation prohibiting homosexual behavior dropped to a new low among college students in 1989, according to a survey of more than 200,000 students enrolled at over 400 colleges and universities.

The survey, conducted by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute and the American Council on Education, found that 45.4 percent of entering freshman men supported the statement, "It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships," the lowest support for that statement since the survey began in 1976.

The decline followed a trend downward from 69 percent in 1988 after an all-time high in 1986 (52 percent) and 1987 (53.1 percent). Prior to those years, support for sodomy laws had fluctuated in the 47-50 percent range.

Indianapolis

National Women's Music Festival set for Bloomington

The Sixteenth Annual National Women's Music Festival will be held May 31-June 3 at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

Performers include Holly Near, Patti Larkin, Perron, Deidre McGalla, Heather Bishop, Linda Tillery, Adrienne Torf, May Sarton and Buffy Sainte-Marie.

The festival will also emphasize a broad spectrum of women's culture and thought with over 100 workshops on subjects such as women of color, women and money and an older women's series and special conferences including a spirituality conference and a writers conference with Sapphire, Kay Leight Hagan, Karla Jay and Minnie Bruce Pratt.

Other events will include seminars, networking and a dance.

For more information write to NWMF, P.O. Box 1427, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46206-1427, or telephone (317) 635-7382.
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If you guessed "a typewriter," then you may be just the person we're looking for. Circulation is through the roof, so if you're looking for a job that will challenge you and keep you busy, this is it.

A medieval torture device
If you guessed "a typewriter," then you may be just the person we're looking for. Circulation is through the roof, so if you're looking for a job that will challenge you and keep you busy, this is it.

This object is:
- A piano
- A medieval torture device
- A typewriter

If you guessed "a typewriter," then you may be just the person we're looking for. Circulation is through the roof, so if you're looking for a job that will challenge you and keep you busy, this is it.

Out of the shadows

THE SHADOW BOX
Written by Michael Cristofer
Directed by Robert Kiefer
Circle Players
Nashville, TPAC's Johnson Theatre. Through April 1.

reviewed by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

In what is probably the most completely satisfying production from Nashville's Circle Players this season, director Robert Kiefer has assembled a fine cast in a revival of Michael Cristofer's Pulitzer Prize-winning THE SHADOW BOX.

First produced in 1977, Cristofer's tale of three terminally ill people and their families and how they approach the inevitability of death is perhaps more compelling today, in the age of AIDS. With a compassionate sense of humor and a well-informed idea of what terminal illness means — not just to the patient but to those around her or him — Cristofer has crafted a story that is both involving and intriguing.

Kiefer's thoughtful, yet somehow provocative, direction sets the standard for local stage dramas still to come this season. His intuitive eye guides the production all the more powerful, his skillful casting resulting in an ensemble creation that is at once both heart-wrenching and uplifting.

Kiefer's ability to cast the right actor in the right role is perhaps most strongly in the performances of Janet (O'Hara), whose Felicity, a dragon with an honest grittiness that makes her scenes almost too painful to watch. Cristofer, heretofore known primarily for her comic roles, is nothing short of stunning as she brings the not-totally likable Felicity to vivid life.

Cristofer is given ample support from Elizabeth Daniel as her put-upon daughter Agnes. Daniel's is a heartfelt performance, brimming with emotion and resignation.

Vying for top acting honors with Cristofer is Rita Frizzell as Beverly, the flamboyant former wife of Bryan (played with intensity and an overwhelming sense of hope by J. Leon Miller), a gay man now living with his lover Mark (Mike Norman, who chewed up the scenery with relish, ultimately delivering a thoroughly heartfelt performance). Frizzell is ideal as the flashy Beverly, brashly bottling a giggle of champagne and proudly displaying the "medals" of her sexual conquests with clan.

This is precisely how I read Cristofer's treatment of the gay relationship: refreshingly natural.

Finally, in the third cottage (the play's action takes place in the grounds of a large California hospital), there is Joe (engagingly portrayed by Daniel Luther with an underlying current of strength and pride) and his wife Maggie (Debi Shimmers in a moving performance), who with their son Steven (Gabriel Sanchez in a winning portrayal) has flown in from New Jersey. Luther, Shimmers and Sanchez relate the blue collar hopes and fears of the family impeccably.

And no one can review THE SHADOW BOX and not give credit to the evening's most important supporting character, the score by Alisa Jones, which she performs on the hammered dulcimer. Jones has created a score that is both original and vaguely reminiscent, tying the disparate characters and situations together.

Girlsfriends

THE BOP SHE BOPS
Directed by Katie Gladfelter
Musical arrangements by Nathan Burbank
Rave Revues: Backstage at the Barn, Nashville. Through April 7.

reviewed by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Featuring a novel approach that's both entertaining and nostalgic, Rave Revues scores another big hit with this new show, a musical trip back to 1964 that features all of the songs we love to remember from that era.

From "Who Wrote the Book of Love?" to "Rockin' Robin," all of the those wonderful songs of the '60s and '70s are here, performed by a staggering trio of actresses. Under the direction of Katie Gladfelter, the three women who comprise the Bop She Bops (three high school friends who reunite 10 years after graduation to form a trio) give the old songs some new twists, connecting them with some fine comic turns.

Gladfelter has assembled a marvelous cast. Bora Carter stars as Lucille, a manicurist with a mission: trying for all she's worth to look like Marilyn Monroe. Carter instead comes across as Sandra Dee wigged out on Dextran. She's wonderfully funny, delivering her musical numbers ("In the Still of the Night" and "Mama said there'd be Days Like This") are but two with brass and sass.

Carter's performance of the Aretha Franklin standard, "Respect" is stunning! She's no Aretha, to be sure, but she's no Reba McEntire either. Her rendition is the show-stopper.

Making their debuts on the Backstage at the Barn stage are Ann Street as Jeannie, a truck stop waitress who rides a Harley, and Connie Freeman as Carol, a housewife whose dreams go beyond her Tupperware sales career.

Jeannie's Jeannie is deliciously naughty — the kind of girl your mother always warned you about, you know, like Ann-Margret in KISS ME KATE — and she can belt out a song with the best of them.

Freeman's Carol has just the right mid-'60s looks, personality and wardrobe. Whether she's pushing Tupperware or selling a song, she's a winning performer.

Accompanied by Nathan Burbank (as Diano), the show is fast-paced, funny and a whale of an entertainment — and they have shows on Thursdays!
In the ‘Steel’ of the night


reviewed by FLYNNIE MALONE
Staff Writer

My God! BLUE STEEL is great looking. It’s been a while since I’ve seen such a director’s eye yoked with such handsome cinematography that tries in virtually every shot to please those rod and cones.

Director Kathryn Bigelow and director of photography Amit Mokri have a visual winning.

ner, maybe even a classic.

The first shot down a hallway, which is potentially as banal as any of the other cop locations (squad cars, precincts, offices, etc.) gives a hint of the chroma to come: “New York’s Finest” blue, a yellow window shade, and red ceiling lights tip off the eye to the pure delight that’s on the way.

The opening credits, extreme close-ups of a gun that drive it to a desirable abstraction, are reminiscent of the Bond film credits before they got such a reputation for splendid richness that they lost their way in nude self-consciousness.

Former painter Bigelow relies on back lighting for highlights and atmosphere. Head lights of the car behind give a rainy car interior a gun that drive it to a desirable abstraction, and red ceiling lights tip off the eye to the pure delight that’s on the way.

In the scenes of extreme interior panic, an underwater percussion conveys a dull sense of dread.

"It was important to me that Megan Turner have an androgyny," says Bigelow in ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY.

Fans of Curtis, of which I am one, will not be disappointed. Bigelow does not exploit her body as has happened in some previous films, most obviously in Fixture. Turner is just rough, but still a fully realized person with fears, pain, loneliness and family. Louise Fletcher plays a very convincing, puffy, aging, abused, full-blow mom, and the family scenes are quite real. BLUE STEEL’s plot is riddled with some bullet holes, and Silver’s endurance in the face of so much of the lethal craziness is warped stated of mind. First class film KNOCKOUT.

It seems that she’s concentrating on entertainment, rather than enlightenment. Okay by me. If filmmakers don’t satisfy my mind, then please do please my eye. Ms. Bigelow, you can.

THE END

The World Famous Jungle Lounge
in Nashville

presents
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113 8th Ave N, Nashville 615/244-7256
Thanks for two great years.

Memphis playwright Den-Nickolas Smith is to be congratulated for a work that sensibly deals with the intense themes of love, rape and betrayal within the context of a deteriorating relationship.

While specially interested in the lesbian and gay community, especially those involved in leather, he addresses values universal to all human relationships. For those uninitiated into the leather lifestyle, the play offered a real education. Women and men of leather had the rare experience of seeing themselves on stage and in the theater's spotlight.

The story revolves around two leathermen, August (Matt Presley) and Drey (Vance Reger), who have just celebrated their second anniversary as a couple.

A source of ongoing conflict between them is Ben (Den-Nickolas Smith), a young friend of August's who is fascinated with the leather lifestyle.

While Ben is obsessed with the idea of finding the leatherman of his dreams and a career in dance, August is concerned about the harm that Ben's naiveté almost guarantees.

In addition, Drey's past hovers over the threesome and pushes them into escalating emotions that lead to violence.

Pre-performance promotion warned that the two act play contained "adult-related material, uncensored language, partial nudity and some violence."

Unlike so much of today's entertainment, these elements were not intended for mere shock value. They were tastefully included to tell the real story of the leather lifestyle.

Despite a few opening night flaws, including forgotten lines, the audience of the sold-out performance were treated to a fine experience of community theater.

It was the Lollipop Guild's first production in a legitimate theater (other performances have been hosted in local bars). Their efforts deserve the professional setting.

The playwright sensitively portrayed young Ben. Reger, as Drey, was forceful in a difficult part that seesawed between introspective gentleness and lumbering rage.

Presley's August should have been the voice of reason between Drey and Ben. However, he too often came off as disgusted with them both. Frustration would have been a more appropriate reaction.

Kerrell Ard, in the supporting role of Taz, was adequate in the part. However, he wasn't given enough to work with. The character was underdeveloped and added little to the plot.

Director Vincent Astor skillfully moved the actors through their scenes at a pace that maximized the dramatic effect of the author's slowly cresting climax.

The set design was perfect, down to the genuine left-over pizza crusts wasting away among empty beer cans on the coffee table.

The lesbian and gay community needs more creative efforts of this caliber. Let's hope Smith and the Lollipop Guild are already working on their next project. Other cities would be smart to take BATTLE SCARS to their own communities for both the message and entertainment value.

F"
Mitzi-thing goes


reviewed by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

That darn Mitzi! Who else would have the chutzpah to re-tailor a classic Cole Porter musical to suit her own somewhat questionable talents?

The show is Porter's wonderfully tuneful farce, ANYTHING GOES, the wacky tale of a trans-Atlantic crossing, with a ship of foolish — but still quite likable — people who find themselves in completely ridiculous circumstances. The situations are totally implausible, but the original book by theatre legends Guy Bolton, P.G. Wodehouse, Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse (updated by Crouse's son Timothy and John Weidman) is great fun, a splendid example of 30s-flavored escapist.

And there are, of course, all of those wonderful Cole Porter songs: "I Get a Kick Out of You," "You're the Top," "Easy to Love," "Friendship," "It's Delovely" and "All Through the Night." If taken simply as a concert featuring Cole Porter songs, it's a wildly successful undertaking. Unfortunately, however, audiences are subjected to a shameless costume change, Gaynor is clad in a cavalcade of lame, gorgeous gowns that show off her gams — maybe the best since Betty Grable and her voice is strong at certain moments, but not up to the role of Reno Sweeney, the lead character turned nightclub performer. It's a singing, dancing frolic that nearly brings down the house.

In supporting roles, Robert Nichols and Dorothy Kiara (as gangster Moonface Martin and his moll, Erma) are delightful, Kiara very nearly stealing the show with her B-movie "broken down broker," although he makes up for it by his moustaching with his lovely voice (especially on "All Through the Night?).

Others in supporting roles who stand out are Gordon Connell (as magnum Elisha Whitney, who's given Porter's Yale fight song, "Bulldog, Bulldog, Bulldog" to sing), Donna English (as debutante Hope Harcourt), and Lin Snider (subbing on opening night for Evelyn Page as Hope's mother). But the real star power in this show is Gaynor on "T~e Gypsy in Me," the evening's musical highlight, as she performs a sort of tango-cha cha, Sabellico staying in character throughout, which is no small feat.

Tony Walton's art deco-inspired sets were superb, his costumes for the company lovely, evocative recreations of the '30s. The evening's low point comes during the show's curtain call, which starts out as a terrific, all-singing/dancing series of bows from the supporting players. Then out comes Mitzi (Gaynor's slim talents can't carry the weight of her starring role).

Stunning costumes and hitting the occasional good note do not make a great musical make, and Gaynor's slim talents can't carry the weight of her starring role.

Thanks, Tennessee, for two great years!

In the last twenty-four months, Dare has grown from an eight-page paper with only 600 readers in one city into the twenty pages you and about 8100 other Tennesseans will read this week.

Somewhere in Tennessee, someone reads a copy of Dare on the average of once every minute and fifteen seconds — a total of almost 550,000 times over the last two years.

Our staff has mushroomed from one full-time and two part-time volunteers working on a kitchen table to three full-time and 22 part-time staffers and contributors based in our new 2000-square-foot offices, complete with computerized typesetting and graphics and a new statewide toll-free telephone service, just blocks from the Tennessee State Capitol.

Ad revenue (from more than 200 different advertisers so far) has climbed by more than 700%.

And we now distribute Dare through more than 50 locations statewide, from Metropolitan Community Church in Johnson City, to The Black and the Read in Knoxville, to Alan Gold's in Chattanooga, to Davis-Kidd Booksellers in Nashville, to The Office in Clarksville, to Squash Blossom Natural Foods in Memph.

That means to our readers and advertisers is that we now have the resources we need to consistently deliver the high quality of writing, production and readership Tennessee's lesbian and gay community deserves.

We'd like to thank everyone who has made Dare possible — our readers, our advertisers, and, of course, our fine staff and contributors.

At the same time, we'd like to pledge ourselves to continue to improve Dare as we grow into our next year, and our next, and our next...

We'll continue to bring you such features as free statewide personals, a complete statewide calendar of events, and the most in-depth coverage of Tennessee and national lesbian and gay community news around.

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Getting serious about gay fiction

Music I Never Dreamed Of, by John Gilgun.


reviewed by JOE MAROHLY
Staff Writer

Don't let the playful covers fool you. Amethyst Press wants to publish "serious" gay fiction. Their starting line-up includes works by Kevin Killian and Dennis Cooper, two writers whose writing styles became influential to much mainstream popular writing in the 1980s (less than zero and bright lights big city owe much to these two talents). Amethyst seems to have virtual dibs on the new narrative writers (or the Maximalists or whatever they want to call themselves today), who are, in my opinion, the most interesting presence in American gay literature right now.

Amethyst introduced itself last year by publishing books by Cooper (a reissue of a 1979 collection of poems), Killian, John Gilgun and Bo Huston. Though the works vary in quality, it is evident that this is a press that wants to be on the forefront of gay fiction. John Gilgun's novel, Music I Never Dreamed Of, is a coming-out story set in McCarthy Era Boston.

The narrator is a young Irish Catholic homosexual, Stevie Riley, just beginning to come to terms with who he is.

Gilgun's writing evokes the era, the early 1950s, when to be gay was to be a homo—a sad sort of character with a limp wrist who knows the names of flowers and reads European novels.

What makes this different from the hundreds of similar coming-out novels is the absolute authenticity of its historical setting.

Gilgun portrays a period of recent history as paranoid and conformist as the state described in George Orwell's 1984, with which he readily identifies.

Riley's coming out is furtive and cloudy, dependent as much on the stereotypes and myths about homosexuality in the 1950s as on the mysterious desires of his body.

I haven't read a novel with as strong a sense of time and place since Alan Hollinghurst's The Swimming-Pool Library.

Gilgun makes Riley's secret lusts, self-doubts, feelings of separateness and guilt, and ambivalence entirely convincing and sympathetic. Riley's boyish fantasies of wrestling ("bopping") and cuddling and various other forms of frivolet are at once naive and highly erotic.

His close friendship with an older woman named Luzanne becomes the impetus for his discovery of his own nature and the fero­

iously homophobic world in which he lives. Riley is a familiar and likable figure whose painful mental struggle never once rings a false or maudlin note.

I was somewhat less impressed with Horse and Other Stories, a collection of fourteen short stories by Huston. Too many of the stories read more like creative writing exercises than finished narratives.

I'm all for experimental fiction, but a num­

ber of these stories seem incomplete and half-baked, as if thrown together in a hurry to meet a deadline. The book, on the whole, is uneven and overpunctuated.

The stories blend surrealism and slice-of­

dlfe reportage, sort of like some of John Cheever's better stuff.

But Huston's stories lack Cheever's fatalistic denouements or, for that matter, closure of any sort. Every two or three pages, the writer adds a character, as if to further his plot, and then at some point, the narrative merely stops. No conflict. No dramatic tension. No beginning, middle and end, to speak of. No impetus to

Their starting line-up includes works by Kevin Killian and Dennis Cooper, two writers whose writing styles became influential to much mainstream popular writing in the 1980s.
STEP RIGHT UP!
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(Chattanooga CARES)
Box 6402, Chattanooga, TN 37401
Call (615) 296-2422

AIDS Response Knoxville (ARK)
Box 336, Knoxville, TN 37927
Call (615) 552-AIDS

AIDS to End AIDS Committee
(ATEAC)
Box 40389, Memphis, TN 38174
Call (901) 458-AIDS

Nashville Council on AIDS
Resources, Education and Services
(Nashville CARES)
Box 25107, Nashville, TN 37202
Call (615) 385-AIDS

Tri-Cities AIDS Project
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- **Personals**
  - **GWM, 40, 5'6", 140#, br/bl, attr., educ., masc. prof. specs monogamous, in-shape masc, life partner.** Not into bars, drugs, smoking, excess alcohol. Photo/letter. Dare DRAWER 71.
  - **GWM, 28, 5'8", 140lbs, br/br, atractive, clean-cut, sincere, healthy, student, tired of bars, smoke & loneliness, sks similar high-caliber guy for monogamous relationship. Do you exist? Photo please. Dare DRAWER 70.
  - **Pussy: Thank you & god for two & a half years of joy & thunder. You're the stars in my eyes & the corns on my feet. I can't wait every day for night so we can rub our feet together as we fall asleep, only to wake up to your gourching sweet self. I love you for being a real person. Here's to a lifetime together. — Sunny's nephew**
  - **GWM, 38, Br/Br 5'11" sks straight acting buddy friend, neat, well groomed like myself fun activities weekend ends. Any age. Dickson County, I enjoy drives in your area. Dare DRAWER 55.
  - **GWF, 43, 6'-2" Br/Bbl, hairy, into reading, music, sitcoms, movies. Love to laugh and cry, sunsets, sunrises, rainstorms and rainbows. Warm evenings on a slow-moving train. Dare DRAWER 68.
  - **GWM, clean cut gffg high-caliber fun big educated profil. 29yo guy wanting relationship. 5'11" 160lbs ready for hot monogamous sex and fun times! Foto a must! Dare DRAWER 67.
  - **GWM, 30, something new, to Knoxville. Where are you, belated Valentine? 35-45, gentle, affectionate, nature lover, animal lover, vegetarian, hopelessly romantic, I'm sick of waiting — are you on this planet? Dare DRAWER 64.
  - **GWM, 29, 6'175 lbs, tan, br/br, Athletic type. lkg for sami! TUL student lkg for other students in TN. Dare DRAWER 63.
  - **GWM would love to meet GWF, petite, fem. & lkg for the attention & affection she deserves. I have a great career & like to be w/ positive people who want the most out of life. Are you what I am missing? Dare DRAWER 57.
I am the Love that dare not speak its name. — Lord Alfred Douglas, "The Two Lovers," 1892

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TENNESSEE’S GAY & LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

Published weekly by Pyramid Light & Power

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TENNESSEE’S GAY & LESBIAN NEWSWEEKLY

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Letters from D.C., Louisiana, New York and Nashville

Dear Dare:

Unfortunately, the xerox copy I received of the review of my novel CHANGING THE PAST, published in your issue of January 12th, was so poor as pretty much to obscure the reviewer's last name, else I would have written directly to him.

But perhaps you would be so good as to forward my thanks to Joe [Marcoll] for writing about the book in a way that pleased me greatly. I usually get a lot of favorable reviews that nevertheless wildly misinterpret my novels. But this is one of the exceptions.

THOMAS BERGER

Publisher, New York

Dear Dare:

To those of the LAYDES Auxiliary, Metropolitan Community Church, its membership, supporters, friends; 5 Points Depot owners, Steve, Russell and all; all contributors, and Dare, we of MCC/Nashville take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation for the $526 given to fund our AIDS Foodbank during our annual Mardi Gras party.

It is only because of the generosity of this community that we will strive to serve all those needing the AIDS Foodbank's help through this special ministry.

Again, thank you all, and God bless each of you is our prayer.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Nashville

JAC GREGORY

Treasurer

HARRISON HICKS

Foodbank Coordinator

RODNEY BRAGG

Pastor

Dear Dare:

Congratulations on your 100th issue. I am sure your readers know how lucky they are to have such a good newspaper to let them know what is happening in Tennessee.

But your paper is also useful to people in other areas since we like to know what you are doing, and when we come to your area, it has ads for places for us to go, and even the most particular person can find something of interest in the events you list. I also like your book reviews. I believe that we need to learn as much as we can about sex and homosexuality.

And even though there are now organizations and publishers for each small segment of the community, limiting their interests to, for instance, lesbian mothers, or leather men, etc., we must not let ourselves be divided.

The major problems apply to all of us, whether we are women or men, young or old, black or white, rich or poor, religious or atheist, etc.

I urge your readers to support organizations. Also help the libraries/archives, such as the Homosexual Information Center, to preserve our history.

Donate back issues of magazines and books no longer wanted, etc. And it takes money to pay our rent and utilities, and we need people to help catalog and do work in the organizations.

It is hard to understand why publishers, including such profitable publications as Vogue, refuse to donate copies to the dozen or so movement libraries/archives. And movement publishers of books, such as Alyson, do not donate a copy of their books, even though this would help publicize them as well as preserve them for future generations of homosexuals, historians, etc. We need to educate even movement people about such values.

Good luck, and many more issues for many more years.

WILLIAM EDWARD GLOVER

Homosexual Information Center, Inc.

Bossier City, Louisiana

Dear Dare:

Recent passage of the national "HATE CRIMES" bill, addressing anti-gay violence, and defeat of Senator Jesse Helms' (R-N.C.) outrageous amendment, was a result of many factors, including grassroots mail from people across the country.

For a change, constituents on our side were heard. I'm proud to point out that one reason was Speak Out, the Campaign Fund's pre-authorized constituent mail program. A spokesperson for People for the American Way described the Speak Out program as having "tremendous power."

Because Speak Out makes it simple and easy for people to be heard, and because it allows us to coordinate constituent mail with legislative developments, we were able to generate more than 20,000 Western Union messages to Senators from all 50 states urging support and co-sponsorship of the Hate Crimes.

If your readers haven't yet joined Speak Out, we urge them to do so by writing or calling us. If individuals will help build the system by "canvassing" at community events and gathering places, we'd love the help.

If there are well-organized, assertive individuals who'd be interested in serving as our "Area Canvass Supervisor" in the state it's a great opportunity to make a difference.

While both Senators [Albert] Gore and [Jim] Sasser voted right on Hate Crimes and on the Helms amendment (and should get notes of thanks from each of us), we need to generate far more grassroots mail from people in Tennessee if we're going to win on the many AIDS and lesbian/gay rights votes ahead.

For most of the 20 years I've worked full-time in the lesbian/gay movement, we've had an incredibly difficult time generating grassroots mail. Now, Speak Out gives us a good chance to turn that around, but no strategy works unless we can get the necessary participation.

STEVE ENDEAN

Field Division Director

Human Rights Campaign Fund

Washington, D.C.

HUGHES, YOU FILTHY FAGGOT! YOU'RE NOT FIT FOR THE HONOR OF KILLING!

STONEWALL RIOTS

— CARTOON BY ANDREA NATALE
The kindness of strangers...

"They thought I'd had a disease in Missouri. No woman would cut her hair off and look like a dyke. They were convinced I was a dyke."
— Actress Kathleen Turner, currently beating up Broadway in a revival of Tennessee Williams' "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," to a writer from Vanity Fair, about her college days at Southwest Missouri State University.

"A lot of people who were at our wedding had started out as pretty homophobic, just your average Joe who thinks he doesn't know any gay people."
— Professional body builder Bob Paris, commenting to THE ADVOCATE's David Perry, about his marriage to body builder Rod Jackson. The couple publicly announced their union in WOMAN magazine, a periodical for body builders.

"Lovers is fine for single people. But we're married. If others want us to refer to them as lovers, we will. We just want them, and the media, to respect our choice."
— Rod Jackson, explaining the couple's preference for the terms "husband" or "spouse" to be used for each other.

"Before coming out it was this dirty little secret that people thought they could throw at me. But now, all their power is taken away."
— Paris, again, in THE ADVOCATE.

"He was so many things to so many of us. Boss, bon vivant, raconteur, balloonist, columnist, happiest millionaire, leader of the pack...friend, super this, mega that... and sparkling naughty boy."
— Robert Forbes, in his eulogy delivered at the funeral of his father, Malcolm Forbes in New York's St. Bartholomew's Church.

"I'm a tomboy...as a child I never wanted to be a woman, so I learned to think like a boy and I think that's what frightens men most, this freedom of thought and the pleasure of competition in life."
— Pop-rock diva Grace Jones, in HELLO magazine.

"When Arsenio Hall had Sherman Helmsley of ARMS on the hot seat in January, he failed to ask him what we most wanted to know: the 'T' on those allegations that Sherman's entering a new chapter in his life, one which will not include a muscular West Hollywood blond. But then we 'spose Arsenio knew better than to throw stones from a glass soundstage..."
— Preston G. Guider, gossip columnist for THE HUMAN NUT, writing in "Read My Lips: Gossip for a kinder, gentler nation of black lesbians and gays."

"Ooh, that scares me, there's one guy up there clapping."
— TV chatfest host Arsenio Hall, responding to his audience's wild reaction to guest Donna Mills' comments about his cute buns. Please, Arsenio, we know you loved having that guy applaud your butt.

"I tend to trivialize the men. They're either women trapped in men's bodies, like Alan Alda or Phil Donahue, or younger guys who are like camp followers looking for easy lays. Those males don't vote, and when they do, they're starry-eyed liberal Democrats who subscribe to PLAYBOY."
— Rep. Robert Dornan (R-Calif.), about men who are pro-choice supporters.

Kathleen Turner: Is she or isn't she? Only her hairdresser knows for sure. — DARE FILE PHOTO.

"I regard it as a tragedy that people of a differing sexual orientation find themselves proscribed in a world that has so little understanding for homosexuals and that displays such gross indifference for sexual gradations and variations and the great significance for living. It is completely foreign to me to wish to regard such people as less valuable, less moral, incapable of noble sentiments and behavior."
— Social activist Emma Goldman (1869-1940).

"We have forced gay people into the red light districts, forced them to meet each other in bars and lurid places — then we call them promiscuous sinners."
— Adele Starr, founding president of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG).

"Those who believe that AIDS is God's way of punishing sinners must be hard put to explain the deaths of so many babies who contracted the disease in the wombs of their infected mothers or of the innocent people who got it from blood transfusions. The people who think AIDS is retribution must be puzzled, too, by the disproportionate amount of talent we have lost with people who have died of AIDS. Homosexual males seem to have contributed more than their share to our culture. Frequently, the homosexual's talent is great, unique and inexplicable."
— Writer and 60 MINUTES commentator Andy Rooney, quoted by Leigh Rutledge in his book UNNATURAL QUOTATIONS.

Don't forget.

Spring cleaning is the perfect time to recycle your pre-read gay, lesbian and AIDS books at It's a Scream! We'll give you 20% of the value for your good condition fiction or nonfiction books. And we already have over a hundred titles in stock to choose from. So they can be re-owned, re-read and re-loved.

It's a Scream!
168 2nd Avenue North, Nashville ▼ (615) 244-7346
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this sunday, march 25

- **MISS GAY COSMOPOLITAN USA PAGEANT**

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  - NETASHA EDWARDS, Miss Gay USA 1989
  - KIMBOL PURKERSON, Mr. Gay USA 1990
  - DIANA HUTTON
  - MONICA MUNRO
  - BIANCA PAIGE
  - RITA ROSS
  - DANA ALEXANDER
  - and DEJOURE SHOUNTO

- **doors open** at 7 p.m.
- **happy hour** 7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
- **buffet**
- **contest starts** at 10 p.m.

- **march 29** THE HEADLINERS OF TEXAS return
- **two shows**

- **coming april 1** music city sports association softball
  - 1 p.m. opening ceremonies, whitfield park
  - 1:30 p.m. games begin
  - 5 p.m. opening day cookout at The Chute
  - 9 p.m. Mr. and Ms. Music City Sports Association Pageant, at Warehouse Two

- **WAREHOUSE TWO**
  - under new ownership
  - the tradition continues
  - **nashville's** premier gay dance bar
  - at 2529 franklin road
  - phone (615) 385-9689