T-GALA gives support
Primary May 1

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

After analysis of a survey conducted earlier this month, the legislative committee of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA) has thrown its support in the May 1 primary to ten judicial candidates for Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson county.

T-GALA also gave support to a candidate in the public defender race.

According to committee chair Robb McCluskey, the questionnaire was developed with assistance from the San Francisco-based Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF).

"We felt that the judicial races should be a primary focus right now," McCluskey explained. "The judgeships are most important. All candidates will be polled for the August primary and November general elections."

McCluskey said T-GALA also plans to be active in the 1990 campaign for Metro council members.

Legislative committee members sent letters and questionnaires to 35 judicial candidates. Of those, ten candidates responded. McCluskey said that two candidates — Barbara Haynes and Walter Kurtz — who did not meet the April 20 deadline for filing their answers were given support because of their previous records.

"Included are several candidates who in the past have been supportive of the gay and lesbian cause," McCluskey said.

In races for circuit court judge, T-GALA's legislative committee gave support to: Hamilton "Kip" Gayden, division one; Marrietta Shipley, division two; Haynes, division three; and Haines, division three.

President signs hate crimes bill
Lesbian/gay leaders are invited to the White House to witness historic event on Monday

by CURTIS BALLS
Staff Writer

Lesbian and gay Americans were invited to the White House Monday to witness President Bush's signing of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act.

The signing marks the first time in American history that "sexual orientation" will be included in a federal law and the first time in history that openly lesbian and gay Americans have been invited to a White House bill signing ceremony.

Representatives of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) attended the ceremony.

"Individuals who represented the national grass roots and community efforts on this issue were invited to attend the ceremonies," said Peri Jude Radecic, Capitol Hill lobbyist for NGLTF. "Among those included on the guest list were Kevin Berrill, director of NGLTF's anti-violence project, and Art Schenck, of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force, who, Radecic said, "best personifies the grassroots organizing on the issue."

Also in attendance was Frank Ricchiazzi, an organizer for the Gay Republican Clubs in California. Radecic termed the bill-signing ceremony a significant event in contemporary lesbian/gay history, because "it is the first time Congress has dealt with a single sexual orientation bill and the first time a President has signed one. It is the first acknowledgement by a President and Congress of the existence of gay and lesbian hate crimes."

"The Hate Crimes Statistics Act has been one of the highest priorities of lesbian and gay Americans for several years. The Campaign Fund is proud of the role we played in bringing it into law. Now, we must continue to press the President and the Congress to move on other issues — including adequate funding for AIDS — that are of vital importance to each of us," said Tim McFadden, HRCF's executive director.

"We need to recognize that it was a Republican President who signed the bill into law, and I hope that this will encourage gay and lesbian Republicans everywhere to come out of the closet and begin to work with this Administration on gay and lesbian issues."

Radecic said lobbyists are aware of recent reports of a proposed cut in the Justice Department's budget, but she said she doubted such a cut would effect the hate crimes statistics law. She said efforts have already begun to secure adequate funding for the collection of statistics.

Commentary: AIDSWALK 1990
More than just a moving experience for the marchers

by JACKI MOSS
Staff Writer

The final figures aren't in yet on AIDSWALK Nashville, but no matter what the financial tally, the walk is already a success. Here are some scenes from the walk:

The "Howdee!" heard 'round the world by Minnie Pearl echoed throughout Vanderbilt Stadium and deeper into the hearts of people who like this woman called Minnie Pearl, but who love the woman who is Sarah Cannon.

The group of walkers was an amalgam of people who were melded together by their love of people. There were men, women, straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, children and even dogs. We all walked for those who cannot. Walkers can attest to the fact that Tennessee is indeed made up of rolling hills. Steep rolling hills.

People driving by in cars yelled things at us. Things like, "Hey, Good work! Keep it up!" And they applauded us as they drove by. And some even waved — with all their fingers!

The spotters along the way not only directed us, but made sure we were okay. When they asked how we were doing, we knew it wasn't just idle chatter. Their encouragement and concern made our load lighter.

At the halfway point, there were healthy liquids, healthy foods and smiling faces to stoke us back up for the final leg of the walk.

Mothers and fathers carried children on their backs and pushed them in buggies along the route.

The walkers seemed almost reverent in mood. This is not to say we did not have a good time. There was humor and fun, but the real joy came in knowing that we were making some small, visible impact for people with AIDS.

Again and again throughout the rest of the day and the next, I heard myself and other walkers say the same thing. "I was really, really tired and my muscles really hurt, but you know, I sure am lucky. I'm healthy enough to do this. Some of my friends aren't. This is for them."

People and places
Our listings of meetings, events and resources are expanded, so mark your calendar, page 2.

A tracking star appeal

A new columnist
Why are some people gay? In focus, page 14.
Friends, neighbors and networks

Memphis

- Agape New Life Church Wednesdays: Bible study, 7pm. Sundays: Sunday School, 9-11am; Worship services, 11am & 7pm. Info (901) 276-1872.
- Coffeehouse Produced by Feminist Productions. Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison. 2nd Friday only, 6pm. $2 donation. Info (901) 276-0844.
- Gay Alternative Hour Radio show, WEVL-FM 90. Mondays, 6-7pm.
- GayRap Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison, 7-8:30pm. Tuesdays, 7pm. Info (901) 324-GAYS.
- Into the Light (Women's Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting. Memphis Lambda Center, 241 North Cleveland, Thursdays, 8pm; Sundays, noon. Info (901) 276-7372.
- Lambda Men's Hour Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison, Tuesdays, 7-30pm. Info (901) 324-GAYS.
- Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center Board meeting, 1291 Madison, 3rd Saturday, 11:30am. Info (901) 324-GAYS or 454-1411.
- P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Support group. St. John's Episcopal Church, 322 S 5th Street. 1st Thursday only. Info (901) 761-1444.
- Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meetings. Memphis Lambda Center, 241 North Cleveland, Mondays, 8pm. The daily meeting, 5-30pm & 6pm; Wednesdays, 8pm. Thursday, 5-30pm; Fridays, 5-30pm and 10pm; Saturdays, 8pm; Sundays, 8pm. Info (901) 272-9549.
- Petuck dinner: Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison, 1st Saturday, 7pm. Info (901) 324-GAYS or 454-1411.
- Seriously Sober (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting. Memphis Lambda Center, 241 North Cleveland, Fridays, 8pm. Info (901) 272-9549.
- Video Night Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison. First & 3rd Saturdays, 8pm. Info (901) 324-GAYS or 454-1411.
- Western Dance lessons Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison, 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7-30pm. Info (901) 324-GAYS or 454-1411.

Nashville

- Affirmation Meeting for lesbian and gay United Methodists. 4th Wednesday, 7pm. Info (615) 256-7529.
- Al-Anon Closed meeting. MCC, 131 15th Ave North, Tuesdays, 6:30pm.
- Alternatives (Alcoholics Anonymous) Closed meeting for lesbians & gay men. 131 15th Ave North, Thursdays, 8pm.
- Being Gay: Gay & Lesbian Co-Dependants Anonymous. At 188 2nd Av North, Thursdays, 8pm. Info (615) 244-7346 or (615) 336-2980.
- Gay/Lesbian Addictions Anonymous Meeting, Belmont United Methodist Church, 2007 Acklen Ave, Thursdays, 8pm.
- Incest Survivors Anonymous First Church Unity, 525 - Franklin Rd. Thursdays. Closed women's meeting, 6:30pm. Saturdays: Open meeting, 5:30pm. Sundays: Closed men's & women's meeting, 8pm.
- Lambda Group Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men & lesbians, Unitarian Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd, Mondays, 8pm.
- Memphis Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Belmont United Methodist Church, 2007 Acklen Ave. Thursdays, 7:30pm.
- MAGNET (Married & Gay Network) Support group for married gay men. MCC, 131 15th Av North, 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7pm. Info (615) 292-0286.
- Memphis Community Church 131 15th Av North. Saturdays: community dinner, you can eat, $5, 7:30pm. Sundays: worship services, 11am & 6pm. Info (615) 365-2828.
- Music City Sports Association Softball league. At Whitfield Park, Edmondsone Pike, Games Sundays at 1, 2 & 3pm. Info (615) 883-3659.
- Nashville CARES Tuesdays: HIV+ support group, 6pm. AIDS/ARC support group, 5:30pm. Wednesdays: newcomers support/education group, 6pm. Thursdays: visualization group, 7:15pm. Alternate Fridays: family & caregivers together sharing, 6pm. Info (615) 385-1510.
- Nashville Women's Alliance At Book Oasis. 3rd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:30pm. Info (615) 883-4833.
- NLC Channel 35 Tuesdays, 7:30pm. Info (615) 297-0008.
- Open In Town Support group for gay men & gay teens. Wednesdays, 6:30pm. Info (615) 297-0008.
- P-FLAG Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays meeting, 4th Tuesday, Unitarian Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd. 7:30pm. Info (615) 662-0332.
- Sex Addicts Anonymous At MCC, 131 15th Av North. Wednesdays: closed meeting for gay men & lesbians, 5:30pm. Fridays: closed meeting, 9pm.
- Sober Sisters (Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous) Open meeting, 131 15th Av North. Thursdays, 8pm.
- Vanderbilt AIDS Project 1st & 3rd Tuesdays: women's support group, 6:30pm. caregivers' support group, 7pm. Thursdays: AIDS / ARC men's group, 7pm. 1st & 3rd Thursdays: family support group. 7pm. Info (615) 322-AIDS.
- Women's Church At Bethlehem Center, 1417 Charlotte. Sundays. 4-6pm. Info (615) 353-1336.

Tri-Cities

- Appalachian AIDS Coalition Support group for PWAs, ARC & HIV+ in southwest Virginia, including Bristol, TN. 3rd Thursday. Info (703) 985-0131.
- Gay & Lesbian AA Holston Valley Unitarian Church, Sundays, 4pm.
- LETSA Lesbians of East Tennessee & Surrounding Areas social / support group. 1st & 3rd Saturdays. Info Box 905 Mountain Home, TN 37684.
- Metropolitan Community Church Fridays: Women's Night, 7pm; Men's Night, 7pm. Sundays: worship services. 7pm, Holston Valley Unitarian Church. Info (615) 926-4393.

Free publicity!
We'll list your nonprofit group or event free! Phone (615) 336-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/or phone number for verification. Deadline is noon Monday for publication next Friday.
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We can provide contact information for those men who are most compatible with you according to your own detailed description.

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Juanita's

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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!

Memphis

Pride logo contest seeks design for '90 event

The 1990 Gay & Lesbian Pride Week Committee is sponsoring a logo contest for this year's Pride Week.

The logo will be used on buttons, posters, and booklets for Pride Week activities. The winner of the contest will receive two tickets to this year's Gay Pride River Ride and will be introduced at the opening ceremonies Sunday, June 17, at the Community Center.

Contestants should take their logo ideas to the Community Center or mail them to: Pride Committee, c/o MGLCC, 1291 Madison, Memphis, TN 38104.

MGLCC growth continues, needs more volunteers

Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center is growing as more are volunteering and helping to administer the Center's programs and functions, spokespersons say.

The Memphis Lambda Men's Chorus, Gay-Rap, Third Friday Night Coffee House and Gay Lesbian Parents are just a few of the groups who depend on the Center for meeting and performance space.

The newest activity will be meditation and relaxation sessions which will be held at the center beginning Sunday nights.

The Center's regular hours are Fridays and Saturdays 7 p.m. to midnight, and Sundays 2-7 p.m.

For further information about volunteer opportunities, call (901) 725-5230.

Women face '90s issues at YWCA conference

For details, call (615) 885-5821.

Tri-Cities

Nancy Wilson to speak at MCC this Sunday

Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of the Tri-Cities will host Nancy Wilson as their special guest speaker on Sunday, April 29.

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.

Nashville

MC SA softball season enters third week of action

Following the Easter week layoff, softball action was again under way at Whitfield Park last Sunday with Music City Storm, Nashville Numbers and Warehouse Warriors all scoring big victories.

Scores from Sunday's games were: Music City Storm 31, Juanita's Zippers 6; Nashville Numbers 22, C.C. Shooters 3; Warehouse Warriors 34, Juanita's Zippers 2.

This brings the league standings to: Music City Storm 3-0; Warehouse Warriors 3-1; Nashville Numbers 2-1; Juanita's Zippers 1-3; and C.C. Shooters 0-4.

The next games are scheduled for Sunday, April 29 at Whitfield Park.

'Steel Magnolias' has Nashville stage premiere

Tennessee Repertory Theatre will present STEEL MAGNOLIAS, Robert Harling's portrayal of six Southern women as they deal with love, death, gossip and hairspray.

The play, on which the successful movie version was based, features only the six female roles and a more intimate feel than the movie because of a focus on the development of each of the six characters.

Steven Kent, a veteran of several previous TRT productions, will direct Nan Gurley as Truvy Jones, Robie Jones as Shelby, Mary Jane Harvill as M'Lynn Eaton, Frances Kemp as Clairee, Janelle Cochrane as Ouiser and Katie Prange as Annelle.

STEEL MAGNOLIAS opens Thursday, May 10 at 8 p.m. Tickets ($8.50 and $16.50) are on sale now at all Ticketmaster locations or can be charged by calling (615) 741-2787 or 1-800-333-1849.

Women face '90s issues at YWCA conference

The YWCA and CALE will sponsor a conference on women facing the 21st century which will be a discussion and exchange of ideas and a sharing of strategies about women's status.

Conference topics will address what's next for women who have benefited from the sacrifices made by others during the last thirty years. Main speakers will be Betty Nixon and Rep. Karen Williams (R-Memphis).

The conference will be April 28, at 9 a.m., at the YWCA. Cost is $10 (including box lunch). For more details call (615) 269-9922.

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**Los Angeles**

**Christian gets $5.5 million in punitive damages**

Marc Christian, Rock Hudson's ex-lover who won $5.5 million from the Hudson estate last year in a landmark AIDS lawsuit, has been awarded another $5.5 million in punitive damages for a loss of "his reputation, shame and mortification."

Christian said that the authors, Tom Clark and Dick Kleiner, of a book about the late actor portrayed him as a psychotic criminal.

**San Francisco**

**CIA asks for dismissal of discrimination suit**

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) asked for a dismissal of a lawsuit against them last month in a San Francisco federal court.

Julie Dubbs sued the CIA in 1985, claiming it discriminated against her and other gay men and lesbians by refusing to grant them access to highly secret information concerning technical systems for collecting intelligence.

After applying for a security clearance to work on defense contracts for the company for which she worked, the Army approved the clearance, but the CIA denied it two years later. Dubbs said the denial cost her job opportunities.

The CIA says that gay men and lesbians are vulnerable to blackmail by foreign agents because sodomy is not constitutionally protected and is illegal in half the states.

"Homosexuality is one characteristic that hostile intelligence agencies are likely to target, and at least some homosexuals may be coerced or manipulated" into revealing government secrets, said Patrick Soreck, Justice Department lawyer for the CIA, in court March 23.

U.S. District Court Judge Eugene Lynch is considering the government's request for dismissal.

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**Houston**

**Gay/Lesbian civil rights bill gets 76th co-sponsor**

Congressman Craig Washington (D-Texas) has announced that he will co-sponsor the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Washington, elected to the House with strong support of Houston's gay and lesbian community, is the 76th co-sponsor of the bill in the House.

"It is time to include lesbians and gay men into the Civil Rights Act where they should have been included from the beginning," Washington stated in a speech before Houston's gay and lesbian community on April 12.

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**Washington**

**Big Brothers to rescind policy that bans gays**

Big Brothers of the National Capitol Area has agreed to end its policy of refusing gay volunteers.

The formalized settlement of the lawsuit by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund ensures that Big Brothers will treat an applicant's sexual orientation in the same manner that they would treat other personal characteristics such as race or religion and will no longer refuse volunteer role models because they are gay.

In September 1988, Big Brothers refused to allow Jeffrey Gould, an experienced health educator with a master's degree in counseling, to volunteer with the agency because of his sexual orientation.

As a part of the settlement, Big Brothers will also institute a "gay sensitivity" training session for all staff and will do outreach to the gay community to publicize the policy change and volunteer opportunities.

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**Birmingham**

**Pride Week plans present changes, additions**

The Gay Pride Week Coalition has applied for permits which will change the location and times of events scheduled for Sunday, June 24.

Rather than a Southside route for the parade, the coalition has applied for a route permit in the downtown area to begin at Kelly Ingram Park and end at Lynn Park, which is situated between Birmingham City Hall and Jefferson County Court House.

The Coalition is planning five hours of continuous entertainment for the afternoon, according to a report in the April issue of the ALABAMA FORUM.

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**ENDORSEMENTS**

The Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Alliance is proud to endorse the following candidates for office in Davidson County:

- **Circuit Court Judges:**
  - Division 1: Hamilton "Kip" Gayden
  - Division 2: Marietta Shipley
  - Division 3: Barbara Haynes
  - Division 4: Bill Bruce
  - Division 5: Walter Kurtz

- **Juvenile Court Judge:**
  - Andy Shookhoff

- **General Sessions Judges:**
  - Division 1: Fred Dance
  - Division 3: William Faimon
  - Division 4: Michael Mondelli
  - Division 7: Bill Higgins

- **Public Defender:**
  - Karl Dean

These people have demonstrated that they will be fair on our issues. Voter turnout for the May primary is expected to be low. Your vote can make a difference. We urge you to exercise your right as a citizen. Please be sure to vote Tuesday, May 1.

---

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Dine • Dance
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Persistence of Vision

Thelonious Monk, the movie

Thelonious Monk: Straight, No Chaser

reviewed by FLYNNIE MALONE
Staff Writer

The title is ironic. Be-bop jazz pianist Thelonious Sphere Monk was not straight in the traditional meaning of the word, and he was chased by private, internal devils.

Of course, the title actually refers to one of his visionary musical works, of which this feature-length documentary is packed to overflow. In strength turned to weakness, many, many, works are played in their entirety.

Be-bop of the '50s was a nascent expression of black independence and power. Big man Monk was "a founder and a foundation" of the style that pushed conventional composition to new vistas.

For the jazz novitiate, his music is bold and yet very accessible. As Thelonious said, "I want it to be as easy as possible so people will dig it."

The period footage is fascinating in its intimacy. Here is open-mouthed Monk in a sweaty trance, on stage playing in his flat-fingered, percussive, rough style.

Here is Monk on the road trying to order chicken livers from his hotel bed.

Here is his devoted wife Nellie helping him on with his coat. Here is Monk in the recording sessions that were to make his music international. The camera is so close in all of these situations that a structural flaw in the film emerges.

Monk became increasingly mentally disturbed to the point that, in the end, he quit playing. His case became so extreme that his son recalls how Monk would look at him and not recognize his namesake child. The film is frustrating because we are literally in the man's face, and yet his mental illness is treated quite mysteriously.

Clint Eastwood, who produced the Charlie Parker film, also produced this film. He was criticized for dwelling on Parker's drug addiction, but if this was an intentional correction, STRAIGHT, NO CHASER bends too far over backward.

We need to know more about Monk the man, not just hear his music.

The black and white cinéma verité footage was shot in the late '60s by the noted Blackwood brothers, Christian and Michael, for a German television special that was only aired once.

Intercut are some contemporary interviews with close associates, family, and some Monk selections played by contemporary pianists. These performances begin to contrast too favorably with Monk's slam-bang technique that begins to grate.

A master at creation, he fell short in finessing the keys into the full expression of the magnificence in his mind.

Monk was off and running. In strength turned to weakness, many, many, works are played in their entirety.

Be-bop of the '50s was a nascent expression of black independence and power. Big man Monk was "a founder and a foundation" of the style that pushed conventional composition to new vistas.

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The 1990 U.S. Census gives lesbian and gay couples a chance to be counted for the first time, just by checking the box marked "unmarried couple." It's a terrific opportunity to show our numbers. Still, some people are afraid to fill out their Census forms accurately. They think the information might be used to discriminate against them. But the fact is that the U.S. Census Bureau maintains high standards of confidentiality. By law, Census information about individuals can't be released to anyone.

Not even the President of the United States.

* An answer the lavender question. The 1990 U.S. Census. Stand up and be counted.

A public service message from Dine © 1990 Pyramid Light & Power.
LIGHTS ON YOUR FEET.
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GOOD LUCK, STEPHEN
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Check out our free Western Dance lessons, Tuesdays and
Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m. Jim welcomes everyone
(beginners too!) and reviews previous lessons every week to
help everyone brush up. Then come show off a little Friday
and Saturday nights as we throw open the Trophy Room for
Western Dancing.

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In the tradition of yesteryear, with the freshness of today

PLAN NOW TO SEE
THE FABULOUS
HOLLANDAIDES
in two shows
10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.,
Sunday, April 29.

Support MCSA Softball. Go, Numbers!

J.T. FREDERICKS RETURNS
Live music in the Trophy Room
Friday and Saturday, May 4 and 5.

WESTERN DANCE MARATHON
A benefit for Pride Week '90.

Sunday Night Dinner Special, Sunday, April 29
Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy,
fried okra, cole slaw and hot homemade rolls, only $3.95

The Chute 2535 Franklin Road, Nashville (615) 297-4571
Only ten months ago, amid the excitement of gay and lesbian Pride Week 1989 and the observance of the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, Jim Grooms and Ray Ankrom talked with reporters about their unique perspectives of the gay/lesbian civil rights movement.

As a young dancer in New York City, Grooms was spending a night on the town with friends when police raided the Stonewall Inn. The raid signaled the beginning of an era of change for gay men and lesbians all over the country.

Several years after Stonewall, the community changed once more as the first cases of AIDS were reported. Now, Grooms and Ankrom are experiencing AIDS themselves. Talking about it, they say, helps them to deal with the day-to-day realities of living with the disease.

Talking about AIDS is difficult for Grooms, but with his trademark candor he answers the easy questions gracefully, the difficult ones with finesse. Had you met him earlier, he would have likely talked to you about the ballet, perhaps his first love.

Grooms is a pattern maker for Nashville Ballet's costume shop, having recently completed all the patterns for the company's production of the holiday classic, The Nutcracker.

At the time of this interview, he had just been released from the hospital. He has lost some control of his speech and tires easily. Ankrom, his lover, helped to recount the pair's experiences.

Grooms, 50, and Ankrom, 46, have been together for just over two years. They met in November, 1987, and became seriously involved two months later.

In March, 1988, Grooms spent three weeks in a hospital for treatment of alcoholism and suicidal tendencies. It was during that hospital stay that he found he was HIV positive.

"The hospital (Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute) handled the whole thing very badly," Ankrom remembers. "When they told him he was infected with HIV, they informed the entire staff and immediately isolated him. He was put into a private room and his meals given to him separately from the other patients. He was not allowed contact with the other patients. He received no counseling. This caused him a lot of depression."

"I don't know how I became infected with HIV. I moved to Nashville in 1986, had my first test then, and it was negative," Grooms says.

"Before the hospital would release me, I had to tell everyone I was HIV positive. The hospital told my landlord that I was infected and he told me to find another place to live. I couldn't believe it. Then the hospital called Ray and told him that I needed a place to stay or I couldn't be released," Grooms says.

Despite his illness, Grooms continued to drink heavily. His relationship with Ankrom became shaky. In July of that year, Grooms' depression overwhelmed him and he tried to kill himself by taking huge amounts of anti-depressant pills and drinking two bottles of vodka.

"When I saw him that evening I saw that he had been drinking. I got mad at him and we ended up not going out that night as we had planned. Later I found him in the alley outside my house. "I had only called the paramedics," Ankrom says. "But the fire department showed up too. The hospital had obviously told them all about Jim because they kept asking me what's wrong with him? I was stunned, but I said only that he had been depressed, had high blood pressure, and kidney stones, and that I would somehow be able to handle it."

"They were wonderful. They taught me that mental attitude is everything, that I have to do the best with what I've got. The support groups, both individually and as a couple.

"The counselors gave me a great understanding of how everything could be handled," Grooms says. "They were wonderful. They taught me that mental attitude is everything, that I have to do the best with what I've got. The support groups were also invaluable, especially the couples group, because we were with people who had the same problems we did. Nothing in our
lives was untouched anymore, everything was affected; our relationship, our sexuality, everything.”

**ANKROM, IT’S A FACT OF LIFE**

Ankrom, it’s a fact of life. We hadn’t noticed it but when we told him what was happening, he immediately noticed that the right side of Jim’s face was drooping. We hadn’t noticed it but the doctor said Jim had palsy.

“I did notice that it was difficult for me to do cross stitch, that I seemed to have lost some control of my right hand, but I thought that was only because I was still weak from the gall bladder surgery,” Ankrom says. “They wanted Jim back into the hospital again and put him on antibiotics right away because he was very weak. They then put him into a whole battery of tests. A stroke was ruled out right away but the CAT scan picked up a lesion on the left side of his brain. The doctors then had to determine what kind of lesion it was so they could treat it.

“By this time he couldn’t talk at all anymore and had completely lost the use of his right hand. He needed a speaking machine to communicate,” Ankrom says. “I was so frustrated because I could think of what I wanted to say, but I couldn’t say it, and I couldn’t write it either,” Grooms recalls. “Losing the use of my hand frightened me most because I had sworn all my life. The thought of not being able to do that again...well, I just couldn’t think about it.”

“Losing his motor control was very scary for him. He’d call me on the phone from the hospital and try to talk and I’d try to understand him, but I couldn’t,” Ankrom says. “I’d tell him not to struggle and to wait till I got there. It was so painful to see him this way because we didn’t know whether he’d ever regain his speech or use his hand again or not. After talking to him on the phone, I would often just break down and cry and cry.”

After two days of tests, the doctors still had not determined the exact nature of the lesion and informed Grooms and Ankrom that they had no choice but to perform surgery. “They shaved the left side of his head — his new punk hairstyle he calls it now — and put clamps all around his head. Then they drilled a hole into his skull and inserted a needle into his brain. He was awake the whole time. It was frightening, but the clamps on his head made him look like he had a halo on.”

“I call him my little angel,” Ankrom says. “While he was undergoing the biopsy, I just sat in the chapel and prayed for a long time. I told God that we would submit to His will for us and asked Him to please have mercy on us.”

Finally, the doctors determined that the lesion was caused by toxic plasmoma. It was Grooms’ first opportunistic infection. He had full blown AIDS.

**WE WERE DEVASTATED, but never lost hope,**” Ankrom says. “Jim improved so quickly again, his speech was getting better and everyone, the nurses and doctors, told him so, but at first Jim didn’t believe it. Then, one morning he called me all excited. He was speaking much better and he said, ‘they’re talking my IV out today and guess what? I can move my hand!’”

The realization that his physical condition helped to make a believer of Jim Grooms and he began the all-important task of reclaiming his health.

About that time, doctors decided to take Grooms off AZT treatment, because it was causing his red blood cell count to drop too much, making him weak and anemic. After two blood transfusions, doctors began to treat him with ddl, an experimental new drug available only on protocol for people who can’t take AZT.

The two men are rarely idle. “We have a lot of things to keep us busy,” Ankrom contends. “For instance, there’s a lot of medicine to keep track of. We have it all written, out on paper, like when he’s supposed to take what and when, what pills are to be taken with food, and what can be taken on an empty stomach. It’s a heavy schedule.”

“Since Jim is unable to do much around the house, I’m busy keeping the house together. I’m fortunate in that I’m between work assignments right now, because taking care of Jim has become a full-time job. I’m also active in our church. Staying busy keeps me sane.”

“Does Ankrom ever feel the urge to leave?”

“Jim gave me the chance to leave last Thanksgiving when a lot of things had happened to us all at once. Both our therapists went off into other practices, the CARES couples group ended its ten week run and there were problems at Metropolitan Community Church. Our whole support network shattered and scattered.

We also have this friend whose lover had just died and we saw what he had gone through, taking care of him during the last year of his life. Our friend wound up becoming ill himself.

‘Jim said he didn’t want to see me go through that and gave me the chance to leave. But I said, nothing doing ‘I’m committed,’ I said. ‘I love you and I’m going to stick this out. We’ll go through whatever it takes.’

I thought Jim was very generous for giving me that opportunity.”

For Grooms, who points to pride at a framed photograph from the MUNCHKIN showing his work, living with AIDS has meant making adjustments in his life. But he’s not yet ready to give up.

“I have learned to take my life one day at a time and to be grateful,” he says. “I’m grateful for simply being able to use my hands again. I get down sometimes when I think of the things I should have done and the things I wanted to do and now I can’t. Like New York. I haven’t been back there since 1969 and I’d love to see it again. But it will be a long time before I can take a long trip like that again. I also love Short Mountain and hope to visit there again soon. I try to look forward.”

I’m pretty content right now. Our friends come over and visit a lot. I go to thrift shops when I can. I love thrift shops. I also collect old dolls and make doll clothes. I enjoy that very much. I sleep a lot. And of course I go to doctors and to treatments a lot.

“I’M HOPING TO GO BACK TO THE ballet. It’s my life.”

And telling of his experiences to others, Grooms hopes, will help them to better understand what living with AIDS means.

“My illness is like being an alcoholic. I decided I couldn’t hide my condition from others. I wanted it known because I have to live with myself. The truth is the truth. I am very open about it and have been very accepted. Sharing my experiences has helped me. I hope it may help someone else.”
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Chattanooga CARES

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- **Roommates Help: Gay feminine "closet" couple seeks same 2 share discreet friendship. Enjoy art, music, dancing, sports, outdoors, travel. We're tired of hiding out! Is there anyone out there in similar boat? Dare DRAWER 84.**
- **Radar Annie - things can't get much worse. But I'd never made it this far without your support. I truly love & appreciate your, even if I am a bitch to live with! I love you! Annie "Aircraft"**
- **Yo Robin - Nothing compares 2 U. Sinnad**
- **Congratulations, Miss Rita! We always knew you'd break their faces! Love, The Manly Men Who Love Womanly Men**
- **GWF, 23, attractive & intelligent. Seeking fem, petite partner who enjoys love & romance. Are u there? Dare DRAWER 83.**
- **The obsession: parts 4-7. The fantasy continues, but I don't need to explain, because you were there, too. May your dreams bring you to the place where you belong! Are you sure? honey? I am. Waiting for U!**
- **Dog-fun of the East: Say what you like, but you'd better like what you say, because I'll see to it that you eat your words, Miss Trash.**
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Tracking star appeal
SEXUAL PERSONAE. ART AND DECADENCE FROM
NEPHERITI TO EMILY DICKINSON. By Camille
718 pages, $35.
reviewed by JOE MAROHL
Staff Writer
SEXUAL PERSONAE is a book that will chal-

gen your conception of world history and

development of modern civilization. It is,
in a way, a book of myth—about the way
things became the way they are, told with just
so certainty and an impressive grasp of di-
verse avenues of thought.
No doubt some readers will find the most
proving aspects of this book to be Paglia's
"explanations" of a variety of cultural phe-
nomena, including, but not limited to, why
gay men adore Judy Garland, why cats are
mysterious, why women smell like fish (she
mentions only in passing, without explana-
tion, that men smell like shit), why faggots are
thin and dykes fat and why homosexual
males attract to the beauty professions, cou-
ture, fashion and interior design.
At the risk of hasty generalization and
beggting the question sometimes, Paglia con-
strues plausible and entertaining theories
about everyday wonders (for some of us).
Equally entertaining are some of the asso-
ciations Paglia makes in the course of her
argument: the Greek kouros and Elvis,
Roman streetwear and blue jeans, TV talk
show hosts and hermaphrodites, Lord Byron
and the Beach Boys.
Paglia's world is full of astounding ful-
ishments of archetypes to delight the
imagination (and, occasionally, to test one's
credibility).
SEXUAL PERSONAE is, the author tells us, a
Sadean approach to the idea of art and deca-
dence in western culture. Its argument is
difficult to summarize. By decadence is meant
the feminization of male-invented culture,
which is in flight from the "chthonic" forces
of Mother Nature.
Masculinity is a reaction to femaleness, and
femininity and decadence are reactions to
masculinity. Femininity denies the darker
aspects of female nature, and decadence
coolly observes the darkness in sublime
horror.
Decadence is a "disease of the eye, a sexual
intensification of artistic voyeurism." Despite
the pejorative metaphor, the author does not
morale against decadence in any of its
forms. "I accept decadence as a complex
historical mode...Ever since man emerged
from the dominance of nature, masculinity
has been the most fragile and problematic of
psychic states."
Nature is female; femaleness is closely
linked to the earth and natural cycles, an
archetypal identification the book embraces
unquestioningly and defends as true. Awe of
the femaleness of nature is basic to decadence
and all art. This awe is, in religious terms,
pagan. Sex, cruelty and divinity are the
components of a pagan understanding of the
natural world.
Further, Paglia claims that Christianity
never succeeded in eradicating paganism,
either in its Apollonian (idealistic) or
Dionysian (sensualistic) forms. Paganism has
survived, she says, "in the thousand forms of
sex, art and now the modern media." The
clash between paganism and the Judeo-
Christian tradition was essentially a clash
between spectacle and the word: "Hebrew
word-worship versus pagan imagism, the
great unseen versus the glorified thing."
Now, as evident in the cinema, advertising,

Most of this book concerns the
development of the modern cult of
personality, through various
"sexual personae," archetypes the writer
traces from present-day
celebrities and
star-appeal back to
Old Kingdom Egypt.

The backlash from religious fundamentalists,
feminists, English faculty and other puri-
tions only proves the point.

Most of this book concerns the develop-
ment of the modern cult of personality,
through various "sexual personae," archetypes the writer traces from present-day
celebrities and star-appeal back to
Old Kingdom Egypt.

Paglia makes no concessions to political
correctness. On the one hand, she embraces
sexual diversity, defending pornography,
pederasty and sadomasochism with a fervor
that even civil libertarians shrink from.

She also vehemently attacks academic
feminism and defends male-centered culture,
hierarchy and the American capitalist system
(interestingly, because it is decadent).
Her Sadean view of nature (and femaleness
in general) as voracious and cruel disturb-
ingly endorses the darker elements of Freud's
view of motherhood and the social applica-
tions of Darwinism.

Continued on page 13
Not quite so fancy


reviewed by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

As much as I love the Avante Garage, and as much as I wanted to love their newest effort, THE FANCY SHOW, I'm afraid I can't. Except for some truly funny turns by the hilarious Lari White, I just couldn't find much that thrilled me this time.

Is the honeymoon over? I doubt it. Let's blame the audience, instead. Maybe it was their fault. In a show that depends largely upon audience reaction, the comics were faced with a bunch of lemmings the night I parked my "shrt" at the Garage.

The current offering, which opened last week at Backstage at the Barn, is an uneven blend of sketch comedy and improvisations that are not only plain tired, lacking the zany band's trademark lunatic energy.

But concentrating on the inspired moments, the highlights of the evening were a TV commercial take-off featuring Meredith Baxter Bixby (Su Hyatt), Leona Helmsley (Phil Perry) Zsa Zsa Gabor (Lari White) and Ivana Trump (Jenny Alexander) in a scene from "The Kennedy Center presents...STEL MUSICALUAS." It was superbly pointed and just the least bit nasty — just like some critics we know.

Another commercial for the "Save A Model" fund featured Hyatt (looking and sounding just like Archie's little girl) as Sally Struthers and Joe Correll as Ali McGraw, with Alexander and White as a runway and K-Mart model, respectively, and Michael Bouson as the Calvin Klein model who can't keep his clothes on. It was one of the funniest moments, with Bouson breaking up the audience, his fellow actors and himself along the way.

...T-GALA

GALA supports: Fred Dance, division one; William Faimon, division three; Michael Mondelli, division four; and Bill Higgins, division seven.

Public defender candidate Karl Dean is also being supported in his race.

*Of the greatest powers we've got is the polling booth," McCluskey said.

"Whether you're in the closet or out of the closet, the polling booth is private." ♦

... 'Sexual Personae'

SEXUAL PERSONAE is not an easy book to make political applications from, either to the Left or the Right.

But at the outset of a new decade, and the decline of an old millennium, Paglia's insights are innovative enough to force the reader to challenge old assumptions and to see beyond the old polarities which have directed social and political thinking in the last century. Whatever else can be said about them (and I predict they will be hotly debated), Paglia's ideas are not uninteresting.

In fact, Paglia may well turn out to be the most outrageous and fun culture critic since Marshall McLuhan. ♦

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Speaking out

Dear Dare:

Some members of the Metropolitan Community Church/Nashville felt it necessary to "hit the streets" to protect their exclusion in the local church. This protest took place during the installation service of MCC's newly called pastor, Rodney Bragg, which were held at St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Nashville last Sunday.

As I viewed it from the "streets," many more lesbians and gay men read our placards on that busy corner than were marching around the inside of the church building.

Personally, I have been supportive of MCC/Nashville financially and with my time and abilities. I simply feel that it is time the 20-year-old "kid" church practices what it preaches. Troy Perry began this Universal Church 20 years ago to offer acceptance, support and a place to worship to all peoples, regardless of their personal religious, social or political beliefs. It seems now many in MCC/Nashville simply forgot we are here as a church to serve all our community, not to be served. I feel our church's historical past is one of unlimited, total inclusiveness not gained by advantage, but by equalization. It's that hard work and commitment that will make our church strong.

I still feel there is much support and agreement for moderation and tolerance in MCC, but by the glares, stares and shunning by the pastor and leadership, I am fully convinced that only God can accomplish this task.

Much of the controversy centers around the church's official stance concerning certain words used in its services which may or may not involve feminine or masculine meanings — referred to as "inclusive language." Much of our protest centered around the fact that inclusiveness encompasses not only all thought and use of words, but also should include all freedoms awarded all people's right to be themselves.

We are calling for reformation to a much needed institution in our community, for if we are to accomplish our goals, we must reach out to all peoples in addition to white, middle class, beautiful, talented liberals. I think at times we may fall prey to acting like we have enough weekly financial budget are glaring extent we persecute, shun, ignore and "other likeness of any person or organization in Dare is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual, religious or political orientation, practice or beliefs of such person or members of such organization.

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Editor's note: Carlton Cornett is a clinical social worker in private practice, providing individual, group and family psychotherapy for adult and adolescent patients.
**Loose tips**

**All about same-sex marriages**

“CAGNEY AND LACEY star Sharon Gless became the object of a fan’s suicidal lesbian love crush during a four-year ordeal which came to a terrifying climax when the woman broke into the star’s home with an assault rifle.

“In a tension-filled seven-hour stand-off, distraught Joni Leigh Penn, 30, demanded that Sharon come to the house, saying she was going to kill herself with a .22-caliber semiautomatic rifle in front of the actress. The weapon’s clip contained 13 bullets.”

— From an account in the supermarket tabloid, THE STAR.

“If the Constitution were written in stone, then “separate but equal” would still be the state of affairs and women would not be able to own property in their own name or vote.

“The issue of gay marriage concerns more than just the question of offspring, but also encompasses questions of insurance benefits, visitation rights in hospitals, wills and estates, income tax benefits, and every other aspect of life in society.”

— Andrew S. Dunn of Syracuse, N.Y., writing to the “Letters” section of the AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION JOURNAL.

“The bottom line, however, is that all heterosexuals are given the choice to legally marry. Gays and lesbians merely wish to be treated equally. As members of the bar, we have a duty to educate the public and push for laws that promote equality.”

— David M. Eichman of Los Angeles, writing to the ABA JOURNAL.

“I do not pretend to know the formula for raising psychologically, emotionally and educationally balanced children. However, I suspect that having caring and stable parents — whatever their gender or sexual orientation — provides a good start.”

— Eugene G. Bruno of Chicago, in the ABA JOURNAL.

“Marriage is a legal recognition of a loving relationship by two people that grants certain legal rights and responsibilities. It is time we permitted gay and lesbian couples the same opportunity to solemnize their unions that straight couples take for granted.”

— from Glenn Gordon of New York, N.Y.

“Let’s call a spade a spade. Homosexuality is a sinful lifestyle and the law should never crown it with any form of legitimization.

“If homosexuality is not a moral wrong, but merely a sexual preference, what about bestiality and incest? Many of the ills of this society are attributable to an ever-increasing tendency to deny the differences between right and wrong, good and evil. Debates like this one only further this demise.”

— Peter A. Cotorceanu of Williamsburg, Va.

Who is this man and why is he being so nasty? Any ideas?

“The societal assumptions that homosexuality was sick and/or immoral created an emotional, sensual and spiritual prison.”

— Bryant Welch of the American Psychological Association’s Practice Directorate, in the monitor, the APA’s national newspaper.

Sharon Gless — the CAGNEY AND LACEY star is the object of a near-fatal attraction — DARE FILE PHOTO

“Use of the term ‘sexual preference’ may derive from good intentions, but it is not accurate. Worse, it encourages the age-old bigotry that plagues us gays, and which we must always challenge. Straight people’s perception that we are gay by preference plays into that infamous religious/cultural attitude that says, ‘Let ‘em change back like they’re supposed to be, since they have a choice.’

“We gays were not offered the opportunity to choose our sexuality, any more than heterosexuals were given the choice to be male or female. Sexual orientation is involuntary — like height, skin color or number of elbows.”

— William R. Steward of San Francisco, writing in CIVIL LIBERTIES, the ACLU newspaper.

“Do you think you’d be a good judge for the Miss America Pageant?”

“No, because they all look like drag queens to me. Generally, their sense of humor isn’t one of their main priorities.”

— Filmmaker John Waters in US magazine.

“Still, the most suspicious person in the case is Brennan himself. A bluff, towering Irish-American, this cop’s cop is a self-appointed king of the streets, a racist and ‘fag killer’ who leers with pleasure when he talks of beating the crap out of some poor black or Hispanic ‘animal.’”

— From an ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY story about the character played by actor Nick Nolte in his new movie, O.U.A.

“Mike Royko’s April 3 column in the TENNESSEAN was a vicious attack on all gay people. It will serve well to create the climate of hate and fear that is used to justify the epidemic of violence and harassment that is the daily diet of so many of us.”

— Gerry Scoppeto, in a letter to the TENNESSEAN.

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tuesdays  regular show
wednesdays  DIANA HUTTON and the NIGHT RIDERS
thursdays  regular show
fridays and saturdays  dance to the music of DJ ED DENSON
daily  2-for-1 happy hour 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

this sunday, april 29

▪ SABLE CHANEL
▪ with our regular cast
▪ shows at 11:00 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.
▪ buffet

coming next sunday, may 6
▪ the fabulous BRONSKI BEAT
live in concert on their 10-city U.S. tour
call bar for details
tickets at the bar or at Ticketmaster

coming sunday, may 20
▪ drag queen mud wrestling!

coming friday, june 1
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▪ live in concert
▪ support the Music City Storm, the Warehouse Warriors
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