Police apprehend Tennessee hustler in North Carolina

Hodges, 23, confesses to Bassett, McDonald, murders, implicates self in string of other killings

by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Police are investigating claims by a 23-year-old male prostitute that he has murdered six or seven gay men in the past two years after he confessed last week to two murders, including that of Ron Bassett, 36, found strangled last Tuesday night in his West Nashville prostitute that he has murdered six or seven gay men in created from the description of a suspect in the Barry McDonald in his Inglewood home. 

Metro Nashville Murder Squad detectives, after interviewing the man—Henry Eugene Hodges—in Atlanta where he is being held for the murder there last Thursday of a North Carolina man, said Hodges had confessed to the July, 1989, brutal stabbing murder of Barry McDonald in his Inglewood home. 

Hodges closely resembles a composite drawing created from the description of a suspect in the McDonald case told Dare last July that the murder was "one of the most violent crimes in this city's history." McDonald's assailant had apparently stabbed the St. Thomas Hospital nurse some 30 to 40 times.

Prior to Hodges' confession, Metro police had refused to comment on whether Bassett's slaying could have had anything to do with his sexual orientation.

Hodges supposedly confessed to both the Bassett and Whisnant slayings while in custody in North Carolina and, at that time, told police he had killed four or five other people since he was released from Tennessee State Prison on August 8, 1988. Hodges had spent four years in prison on charges of armed robbery and attempted kidnapping in the Chattanooga area in 1983.

"He said that if you people don't think I'm a criminal, just wait until 10 tomorrow (Friday) morning. I guess he figured we'd find all this out," said Dale Ledbetter, Shelby police commander.

Goodlettesville police are searching for clues that would help them implicate Hodges in the October, 1989, slaying there of Volunteer State Community College professor Robert Sibert. Sibert was found dead as the result of a bullet wound to the head, according to medical examiners.

Authorities are also investigating whether Hodges could have been involved in the September 7, 1988, murder of Vernon Lester Larkin in his Hickory Valley area apartment. ❖ Continued on page 6

Protestors target Anita Bryant in Franklin

Singer's anti-gay rhetoric sparks controversy

by CURTIS BALLS
Staff Writer

Carrying placards reading "Anita, can you say AIDS?" and "Anita, Do Unto Others," a group of 14 lesbian and gay activists last Thursday protested the Franklin appearance of Anita Bryant during a fundraising event for Biological Therapy Institute (BTI).

Bryant, who was performing at a fundraiser for BTI, has been an outspoken critic of lesbian and gay rights and was instrumental in the 1977 overturn of the Dade County, Florida, anti-discrimination ordinance protecting lesbians and gay men. BTI is a Franklin-based cancer research institute founded by Robert Oldham.

The protest was organized after an article appeared in Nashville's the Tennessee in which Bryant reiterated the same anti-gay views she has espoused since the mid-1970s.

When protestors arrived at Oldham's Franklin estate, they were met by deputies of the Williamson County Sheriff's Department who had apparently been tipped off to the protest. Sheriff's deputies threatened the protestors with arrest if they did not leave the side of U.S. 431, which runs by Oldham's LockAway Farm.

"I will haul your asses in. Don't smart off to me, I am the law," Sheriff's Deputy David Beard is reported to have said.

The protest broke up after about 15 minutes when organizers decided that the protest, however brief, had been effective. A spokesperson for the Sheriff's Department denied that the officer made the threat and said it was not common practice for the department to talk to citizens in that way. But, the spokesperson added, "we have the right to enforce all the ❖ Continued on page 6

Memphis ordinance under fire

Lawsuit filed to challenge constitutionality

by MARK LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

A stringent new Memphis city ordinance banning minors from any live performance involving nudity, violence, or sexual conduct received its first test at a rock concert last Saturday.

Vice squad officers attended the performance of the heavy metal group Aerosmith, and were prepared to make arrests if the group violated the ordinance, which bars minors from "live performance which is harmful to minors" or includes "excess violence, nudity, sadomasochistic abuse, sexual conduct or sexual excitement."

No arrests were made for violations of the law, according to a spokesperson for the show's promoters, Mid South Concerts.

The ordinance allows for fines of up to $50 for promoters, performers, producers, directors and parents who allow minors to attend.

Before the concert, city officials and concert promoter Bob Kelley ❖ Continued on page 6

Inside Dare

❖ Art of the Possible

Memphis photographer Ben Fink is stretching the limits... Centerpiece, page 8.

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Author Alan Berube uncovers the truth about lesbians and gay men in WWII, Pages, page 13.

❖ Sinéad O'Connor speaks out.

Everybody's talking! Loose Lips, page 15.
**Chattanooga**

- **Chattanooga CARES** Closed support group. Mondays, 6:30pm. Info (615) 266-2422.
- **Gay/Lesbian AA** Open meeting. Unitarian Church, 3224 Navajo Dr. Thursdays, 6pm; No-smoke meeting Saturdays, 7pm.
- **Lesbian & Gay CoDA** Closed group. Next meeting is Saturday, 12:30pm. Info (615) 267-7824.
- **Metropolitan Community Church** Worship service, 10am. Info (615) 320-0288.

**Clarksville**

- **Clarksville CARES** Support group for HIV-, ARC, AIDS, family & partners. 1st & 3rd Mondays, 8pm. Info (615) 648-7730.

**Knoxville**

- **aids Response Knoxville** Mondays: PWA support group, 7-8:30pm. Tuesdays: Circle of Love family & friends support group, 8pm. Wednesdays: HIV+ support group, 8:30pm. Info (615) 523-AIDS.
- **Gay & Lesbian Student Union/UTK** Weekly meeting Tuesdays, 8pm. Info (615) 585-8086.
- **Lesbian Codpendents Anonymous** At all K offices, 1320 North Central. Fridays, 8pm. Info (615) 533-5339.
- **Metropolitan Community Church** Worship service. Corner Weisgarber & Lonas. Sundays, 6pm. Info (615) 521-9546.
- **UT Gay Christian/Monhchristian Support Group** UT Humanities Bldg 53A, Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Info (615) 584-6934.
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Tennessee's Lesbian and Gay Newsweekly
Memorial Day Cookout • Sunday, May 27, 4:00 p.m.
Come one, come all! Most of all, just come. Check our bucket of beer special.

Saturday 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
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Nashville's Sunday Night Party Place!
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Support the AIDS vaccine effort.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AIDS VACCINE EVALUATIONS
Volunteers must be healthy adults between 18 & 60 years old.
For more information call (615) 343-AIDS

Local Color

Chattanooga
AIDS memorial service held at Miller Plaza
About 125 people attended a candlelight memorial service for victims of AIDS held at Miller Plaza, Sunday, May 20, sponsored by Chattanooga CARES, a community-based AIDS services organization serving clients throughout southeastern Tennessee.
The sermon was delivered by Don Gieselski, and music was provided by Miriam Geifer, Gail Dooley and Walker Breland.
Kenton Dickerson, spokesperson for Chattanooga CARES said, "there was a lot of support from the community at large in addition to the gay and lesbian community."

Lesbian/gay AA group to sponsor dance
Key to Freedom, the Chattanooga area's lesbian and gay Alcoholics Anonymous group will sponsor a dance on Saturday, June 16 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 3224 Navajo Drive, in Chattanooga.
The dance will begin immediately following the 7 p.m. Key to Freedom meeting. Admission is free.

ARK announces second quarter "Buddy Training"
AIDS Response Knoxville (ARK) will hold its second quarterly "Buddy Training: AIDS 102" on Saturday, June 9, at the ARK offices at 1320 North Central Street in Knoxville from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
The training is designed to prepare people to be supportive friends and resource persons to someone suffering with AIDS.
According to an ARK spokesperson, people who are interested in becoming buddies also need to take AIDS 101, ARK's other regularly offered seminar. Those classes can be taken in any order.
There is a $15 registration fee which covers the cost of materials for both AIDS 101 and Buddy Training: AIDS 102. Space is limited to 20 people, and the classes are offered four times a year.
For further details on courses offered, or if you are interested in volunteering with ARK, call (615) 523-2437 or write ARK at P.O. Box 94732, Knoxville, Tenn., 37937.

Memphis leather clubs have country outing
About 40 members and friends of three Memphis leather clubs participated in a country outing on Saturday, May 12.
Members of Tsarsus, Wings and Women of Leather gathered at the home of two Wings members for the all day affair.
According to spokespersons for the groups, Wings president Chuck Saylor and
sexual conduct with another consenting subject was subjected to intrusive questioning about her government intrusion into her personal during an interview with the DPD and was not woman in the privacy of her home.

sexual partners would be notified by the State from his parish, St. Christopher Church, be­ and cites as a basis for its policy of discrimina­ tion Section 21.06 of the Texas State Penal and popularized safe sex among gay men

San Francisco
Survey indicates decline in safe sex among gay men
A recent survey of 517 men conducted by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and Communication Technologies indicates a decline in the number of gay men engaging in safe sex. The survey also found that a greater percentage of men between the ages of 18 and 29 reported engaging in unsafe sex than gay men in other age groups.

St. Louis
Gay/lesbian group to take part in Episcopal meeting
The "Under One Roof" Conference will be held by ten Episcopal Church organizations, including Integrity, the gay and lesbian justice ministry of the Episcopal Church, in St. Louis, June 21-24. Integrity will hold its own convention as part of the conference together with various social, justice and pastoral networks of the Church. For information about the conference, call (212) 255-9185.

Washington, D.C.
Barbara Bush offers support to P-FLAG
First Lady Barbara Bush has written Patricia Goodman, president of the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG), that "we cannot tolerate discrimination against any individuals or groups in our country."

The letter came in response to Goodman’s plea to Bush to "speak kind words to some 24 million gay Americans and their families." "I appreciate...your encouraging me to help change attitudes," Bush wrote. Discrimination, she said, "always brings with it pain and perpetuates hate and intolerance."

Busted has frequently made clear her distaste of discrimination based on sexual orientation, according to the Associated Press.
A complete line of Wendie O's.

We’re proud to carry a complete line of Wendie O’s handmade jewelry, including her beautiful custom-made triangle lapel pins and earrings.

It’s a Scream!

168 2nd Avenue North, Nashville ▽ (615) 244-7346
Your Visa or Mastercard always welcome.

...Hodges confesses

Continued from page 1

Police are also looking for possible links between Hodges and the March 5 murder of Aaron Overstreet, 21, who was found in Percy Priest Lake. Overstreet had been shot and stabbed.

According to reports from Atlanta, Hodges was well-known among that city’s gay bar clientele as a hustler. In fact, he had been banned from one bar — the Galloway — because of his reputation as a prostitute.

However, research by Dare failed to turn up anyone in Nashville bars who could accurately identify Hodges’ photograph, although some people did say he looked familiar.

Hodges told police he had met both Bassett and Whisnant in gay bars.

A friend of Bassett’s, who asked not to be identified, said that Bassett did not frequent Nashville’s gay bars, preferring instead to cruise the city’s Centennial Park and the Percy Priest Lake area for sexual partners.

Bassett, described by another friend as “real low-key, an all around good guy,” had earlier been the target of a burglar on April 21.

As a result, he had bought a .22-caliber handgun for protection, friends said, and had been attempting to establish a crime watch program in his neighborhood.

When Hodges and Brown, a runaway from Ohio, were caught in North Carolina early Friday morning, police found Bassett’s gun and some jewelry taken during the murder in Whisnant’s stolen vehicle.

...Bryant protest

Continued from page 1

laws of the State of Tennessee.”

“We are not going to let Anita Bryant get away with her anti-gay statements without a protest, wherever she appears,” said Abby Rubenfeld, co-chair of the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (T-GALA).

“Ignorance and oppression breed violence, and we want to live in a safe community. Violence directed at gays and lesbians is on the increase with five gay-related murders over the last 18 months in Nashville alone. Anita Bryant needs to understand that her attitudes contribute to this violence,” said Debra Alberts, T-GALA’s public relations director.

Penny Campbell, executive director of T-GALA, added: “We want BTI to know that we don’t approve of their choice of fundraiser, but we are concerned about cancer too. Oldham came and saw our protest, so perhaps he will be more careful in his choice of fundraisers in the future.”

BTI spokesperson Kathy Oldham defended BTI’s efforts and said, “It was not the intention of BTI to offend anyone. We were totally surprised about the protest. Bryant and I have never discussed her views on gays and lesbians, nor have I seen any newspaper articles. Her views are her own. BTI has no political affiliation.”

Claiming that she and BTI “abhor violence,” Oldham said, “We have much to protest for in terms of health care.”

As to the possibility of future protests against Bryant, Alberts said, “We would be willing to meet with her and discuss these issues in order to educate her and sensitize her to gays and lesbians. We think it is important to educate people because ignorance and homophobia lead to violence.”

Bryant was unavailable for comment during the protest and subsequent phone calls to her at her Nashville office, located at 325 Cremeoan in Green Hills, were unsuccessful in obtaining a statement from the singer/evangelist.

A spokesperson for Bryant said the former Miss Oklahoma was “out of town until the end of the week.”

...Memphis ordinance

Continued from page 1

indicated that they did not expect any violations at the concert.

“I understand from what I heard Aerosmith is pretty low key,” said City Council Chair Jimmy Moore.

Kelley was not available for comment at press time.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee had already filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the law. The suit—McDaniel v. Hackett—charges that the ordinance deprives parents of the right to control what performances their children may attend. It also claims the ordinance is overly broad and does not provide reasonable notice of what performances are proscribed. The suit was filed by ACLU cooperating attorney Bruce Kramer on behalf of Larry McDaniel and his minor children of Memphis.

The ACLU sought an injunction to prevent the city from enforcing the ordinance, but on May 17 a federal judge declined to issue a restraining order.
SHAKE A LEG!
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.

LIGHTS ON YOUR FEET.
We spin the hottest for video / disco dancing every night!

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Go, Numbers!

HOT MUSIC, HOT VIDEOS, HOT NIGHTS.
Come celebrate Memorial Day Weekend at The Chute! We’ll be spinning the hottest of the latest as we PARTY all weekend. Eat, drink, dance and unwind with us this Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 25–28.

DO IT AGAIN
Be sure to join us next weekend as J.T. FREDERICKS returns with live music as only he can do it in the Trophy Room, Friday and Saturday, June 1 and 2.

Sunday Night Dinner Special, Sunday, May 27
Baked virginia ham, au gratin potatoes, garden peas, tossed salad & hot homemade rolls, only $3.95
Join us in the dining room
5:00 – 10:00 p.m., Tuesday – Sunday.

The Chute 2535 Franklin Road, Nashville  (615) 297-4571
I do some graphic images very much like Mapplethorpe's and yet they are soft and dreamy. They grow out of my desire to break down stereotypes and say that gay lovemaking is sensual.

Among the more exciting contemporary artists in Tennessee and the Mid-South is photographer Ben Fink of Memphis. Widely known for his ATEAC (Aid to End AIDS Committee) Auction poster designs and extensive commercial photography, Fink is gaining recognition for his art photography. Dare's Victoria Miklosky spoke with him in his Memphis studio.

How did you first get into photography?

Well, I started out at Memphis College of Art where I painted for three years, but I left to go to Memphis State where I took courses like graphic design because I knew I was going to have to make a living. I was bored sitting behind a desk all the time, so I took a couple of photography classes and loved them and just got more and more interested in it. Then a friend who was working for a New York photographer moved here and she was going to quit her job. I decided that I wanted to try working for someone, so I quit school and worked for him for a year and a half. He worked building sets and shooting stills for the movie Close Encounters and that's the type of work he did—special effects photography. I went in knowing absolutely nothing and ended up getting a photography douche. I went out on my own a couple of years ago and did a few things here and there commercially and started to do my own personal work like the prints that were used in the ATEAC posters.

Are the ATEAC posters your only connection to the gay and lesbian community?

There are periods of time that I've worked in the gay community but I don't stay submerged in it because I don't think that's conducive to my well-roundedness. I don't isolate myself in any community and once I get enough of one thing I move on. You can see in my work that I've gone through periods.

When I was in school I did a documentary on a black family here in Memphis. I went to weddings, funerals—I practically lived with them. Then I went through a leather period, hanging out in gay bars and shooting people—trying not to upset anyone and make it fun at the same time. The third series I've started grew out of the first ATEAC poster that I did. The ATEAC posters feature serial photography.

I was interested in showing the passage of time and how AIDS affects people psychologically. From that one project I've gone on to shoot more and more people, many from the gay world.

I'm working now on what will probably be a lifetime series of gay portraits.
What artist has most influenced your work?

Robert Mapplethorpe—because of his guts. I look at his work and then try to use it in my personal work. When I was in college, I told my professor that I wanted to do some gay-oriented photographs. He showed me a book of Mapplethorpe's work and it just wiped me out—I didn't think I was that serious.

I said to myself "oh no, somebody's already done this." A lot of his art came out of his commercial work for VOGUE and I think his slickness is derived from that. We share that. But I'm looking for another way of showing the gay community. I want to emphasize the sensitivity with gay images that could appeal to anybody.

So how would you describe your work?

I do some graphic images very much like Mapplethorpe's and yet they are soft and dreamy. They grow out of my desire to break down stereotypes and say that gay lovemaking is sensual.

Other work of mine is very personal and full of personality, but the printing on all of my new work is soft and beautiful, a multi-layered effect that I achieve with chemicals in the darkroom. I'm always looking for sensual images that the observer might want to reach out and touch.

If I shoot a man lying across a bed, I want the photo to be very soft. I want him to be as soft as the cloth he's lying on. I also look for nurturing feelings with some fantasy thrown in. I've done some work shooting women in factories which turned out to be really beautiful dichotomies. Mine aren't the sharpest images in the world.

Film is getting so refined now and photographers are rebelling against that high resolution and moving toward softer images. In the last year I've been experimenting with decay process in the darkroom, scratching negatives and ripping prints. We're going through some pretty tough times right now mainly because of AIDS, and my work reflects that, sometimes indirectly.

When I realized what I was doing I pushed it to its limits. In some of my work there's a feeling of real torture. The people in the pictures aren't in pain but the prints are affected by something they have no awareness of. Some of the prints look dirty or tainted and it's definitely an invading presence.

Lately I've been looking for something that makes a big statement. I'm moving toward monumental or statuesque images and I'll continue with that.

What's in the future for you?

I had a piece shown at Brooks Museum here in Memphis when it reopened in December. It was sold at silent auction with the work of artists like Clift and Eggleston who are fairly well known. That was my first showing in a large museum, and as I go on, that will be more and more of a goal. Recently the Memphis Center for Contemporary Arts asked me if they could show my work, so I'll be having a show of this new work I'm doing now in the near future.

For right now this is a great place to be doing what I'm doing. There's a lot of opportunity here and a lot of things to be photographed. And I think I'm going to be around awhile. I'm pleased with my work now, but in six months I probably won't be. I'm becoming more comfortable with the evolutionary process, and I'm still a young photographer.

I hope I never get bored with it, but if I do, my natural instinct is to move on. I'm taking it one step at a time and growing in different ways each time I take a picture.
**Announcements**

- **WANTED:** Exec. dir. for org. providing AIDS services & education. Should be exp. in program development, staff mgmt, grant writing & fundraising. Masters degree in mgmt, health sciences, human svcs. or related area pref. Send resume & salary req. to Search Committee, Nashville CARES, Box 26107, Nashville 37202. EOE.

- **WANTED:** Single parent part-time teacher for our new Headstart program. MTH-PhD in related field. Send resume to Headstart, 821 3rd Ave. S. Nashville 37210.

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- **For rent:** Fully furnished 2br/2ba Apt, Nashville, TN. All utilities included. $550/mo. Available now. (615) 444-3388.

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- **Newspaper Classifieds**

- **Announcements**

- **Real Estate**

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The wondrous 'Camille Claudel'


reviewed by FLYNNE MALONE
Staff Writer

For almost three hours Camille Claudel recreates industrial, industrious Paris from 1885 to 1913. It is often painted with dark, drizzly beauty and, in the end, the pain of 30 years confinement in a mental institution for the sculptress, lover-model-collaborator of renowned Auguste Rodin.

Claudel was extremely accomplished and unrecognized. She could "make the clay more alive than the model."

Isabelle Adjani (the story of Adele H.), of French and Algerian descent, labored to deliver Claudel's story. She gave it healthy financing, as uncharacteristically did the French government.

Adjani's beauty and skill are fitting to play the artist and her subtle descent into paranoid obsession.

When Adjani, as Claudel, "makes love to the mud" that will become Rodin's favorite portrait, every motion is believable and every emotion is true. It is ironic that Adjani's lover, Bruno Nuytten, directed the film.

Nuytten is a cinematographer by training and it shows. His tightly composed shots lend a disorienting mystery and tension. Especially Nuytten's lighting is unfailing in grace with a disorienting mystery and tension.

The story of Claudel and Rodin is true. She was about twenty and he forty when they met. He respected her talent always, and she is credited with revitalizing his work and his ardor.

There are varying degrees of creative attribution, but it is certain that she worked constantly, and was formally credited with virtually nothing. Two of Rodin's most famous works, the Gates of Hell and the Burghers of Calais, were created during this era and the film gets at Claudel's hand in these.

For all his involvement with Claudel, however, Rodin had another lover, Rose Beuret, whom he finally married but weeks before they both died. He would not choose Claudel, and so she chose to leave him.

Gerard Depardieu (get out your handkerchiefs, Jean de Florette, etc.) is Rodin's brooding hulk with a core of weakness clearly revealed. He withdraws from Claudel yelling, "I don't want any more complicated emotions!"

In her expanding isolation, Claudel grew more and more convinced that the "Rodin gang" was trying to steal her work. This paranoia, coupled with her bitterness at his choice of lovers, produced a diagnosis of at least eccentricity and at most mental illness.

She attends an exhibition of her work with face of haphazardly applied garish white powder and red lips askew, her shapeliness disguised in a crazy quilt dress she fashioned for the occasion.

She lives with several cats and is depicted as unaware that her neighborhood has been evacuated in the face of a rising river.

It is important not to trust the dramatic details of such a film as this, even though it is based upon the biography written by Claudel's great niece.

It is also important to grasp the frightening universal reality that was Claudel's life.
The way we were


reviewed by CHRIS FREEMAN Contributing Writer

Alan Berube's well-researched, incredibly inclusive study of the involvement of lesbian and gay men in World War II is a major contribution in many fields.

It documents a part of our history that has heretofore been silenced. By our history, I mean both American history and gay history.

U.S. Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.), a member of the House Committee on Armed Services, is quoted on the book jacket praising COMING OUT UNDER FIRE: "As the public debate heats up over whether the military should continue its antihomosexual policies, this... is must reading for members of Congress, military policy makers, veterans and every American who is interested in how the events of World War II still affect our lives today."

These comments suggest the overtly political character of Berube's book, but what is perhaps more interesting is his conclusion that the lesbian and gay GI's who were involved in World War II were the founders of gay liberation.

Berube argues that the military policy of screening potential personnel forced recruits to recognize the possibility that they might be lesbian or gay. This generation of Americans, Berube claims, were the first to be confronted so directly about their own sexuality, and this confrontation was enabling for many. It allowed them to realize the possibility of their own "difference," at the same time naming that difference.

Until the World War II era interrogations, many men supported by the army as homosexual had never before really heard the word. Women recruits, according to Berube, were not subjected to such invasive screening early on. "Only gradually did [military psychiatrists and officials] define what they perceived to be a lesbian problem, waiting until the end of the war to issue directives specifically aimed at excluding lesbians from the armed forces."

Coming out of Foucault's notion of the historically-constructed nature of sexuality, Berube argues that military psychiatrists' screening policies, "developed... to discover and disqualify homosexual men, introduced into military policies and procedures the concept of the homosexual as a personality type unfit for military service and combat — a concept that was to determine military policy for decades after the war."

Of course, in the midst of such strict policies were endless hypocrites. Chief military psychiatrist Henry Stack Sullivan, for example, "lived... with his devoted male companion" and "was particularly sensitive to sexual stigma."

Berube's book includes material from interviews he conducted with over one hundred veterans. These anecdotes are perhaps the most effective parts of the book because they make it personal and real, military regulations weren't just on paper, and these people's stories make that point loud and clear.

The last three chapters COMING OUT UNDER FIRE: deal with the postwar consequences of military anti-gay policies. Though he might be subject to charges of setting up a false causal relationship between military policies and the gay liberation movement, Berube's cogent argument that there is a direct connection between these two historical realities is convincing.

Gay veterans who had been dishonorably discharged — and these Section VIII's will make any reader rethink his or her perceptions of Nestor Corporal Klinger — fought, and failed, to get military benefits.

Berube reports that "in 1956 the Mattachine Society had been organized in Los Angeles in response to the anti-homosexual campaigns in Washington, police arrests in Los Angeles, the state sexual psychopath panics (and) the treatment of homosexuals by the military...." Charles Rowland recalled that he and most of the other founders of the Mattachine Society had been veterans."

During the reactionary 1950's, many young gay publications ran features on gays in the military, including such titles as "Homosexuals in Uniform," "Homosexual Servicemen" and "Undesirable Discharges." Furthermore, Berube says that, in 1966 the first nationwide protest by gay male and lesbian organizations in the United States was one that opposed the military's discrimination against gay personnel and veterans."

Such evidence leads me to believe that Berube's is a far-reaching study that could affect the lives of millions of people. Straight veterans could get an interesting re-vision of many of their former cohorts by reading COMING OUT UNDER FIRE:.

Berube reports that, since 1941, almost 100,000 men and women have been discharged from the military because of their sexual orientation. His book tells us that they have not taken this kind of abuse quietly.

Because of the efforts and voices of many of these people, we can have voices today, and we can continue to fight for the rights that gay people have been denied for too long.
Looking at some of life’s difficulties

by CARLTON CORNETT
Contributing Writer

All of us face problems in living: anxiety, depression (defined in terms of “the blues” now and then), relationship struggles and interpersonal conflicts. Lesbian and gay people, however, face some added difficulties, because of our place in society, which compound the average and expectable “crises” of life.

Dare is not to be considered as any indication of the opinions of this newspaper or Dare, Pyramid Light & Power, staff members or advertisers. The sense of shame and self-hatred many lesbians and gay men may experience in navigating the path of being lesbian or gay.

I’ve heard that lesbians and gay men are more likely to be alcoholic or addicted than straights and that this is related to the idea that bars are the heart of the gay subculture. True?

Yes and no.

It does seem that the incidence of alcoholism and other addictions is higher for lesbians and gay men. A recent review of ten studies of the incidence of alcoholism in lesbians and gay men places the range of alcohol abuse and dependence at 18 to 38 percent for gay men and 27 to 35 percent for lesbians. These figures are well above those of the general population.

This type of data suggests that there is a higher incidence of alcoholism (and presumably other types of chemical dependence) among lesbians and gay men. However, what such descriptive evidence does to develop friendships?

friendships. They want to have gay male friends. They want to become a part of the gay community.

As in all relationship concerns, the best way to begin looking for answers is internally.

Editor’s Note: Carlton Cornett is a clinical social worker in private practice, providing individual, group and family psychotherapy for adult and adolescent patients. Although his comments in “In Focus” are not meant to take the place of personal therapy — and is not published as such — we do invite your questions or comments.

Send your letters to: Carlton Cornett, c/o Dare, Tennessee’s Gay and Lesbian Newsweekly, Box 40422, Nashville, Tennessee, 37204-0422. All letters will be kept confidential.
Everybody's talking...again

cmpiled by JEFF ELLIS

Editor

"I'm repelled by all those stupid girls that are merely products of someone else, singing all these words that aren't their own. I hate things like Milli Vanilli." — Singer Sinéad O'Connor on the state of pop music today.

"If there is anything to be learned from the Holocaust, it is that there can't be any institutional tolerance from places like NBC and SNL toward hatred of any group." — The Boston Globe's Ed Siegel, writing about Andrew Dice Clay on NBC's Saturday Night Live.

"Earlier in the week, cast member Nora Dunn had announced she wouldn't perform on the show. Dunn, the only current cast member whose work has consistently evinced a feminist political sensibility, called Clay 'a hatemonger.' Musical guest Sinéad O'Connor also canceled, replaced by two acts, the Spanish Boys and Julee Cruise.

"The best thing about the Clay debacle was what it revealed about hip TV-comedy relations. At first, SNL producer Lorne Michaels told reporters he respected Dunn's gesture of protest; as Saturday neared, however, Michaels was saying things like, 'Dunn's contract was up, this was the end. We're in the process of making some changes.'"

"Agent Bernie Brillstein, who represents Michaels as well as cast members Dennis Miller, Dana Carvey, and Jon Lovitz, told the Washington Post, 'I know what I'd do if I were in such a position. [Dunn] would be history.' Gee, I guess Andrew Dice Clay's attitude toward women isn't that unusual after all."

"From an Entertainment Weekly Review of Clay's appearance on Saturday Night Live.

"President [Jerry] Vines would have welcomed the president and wanted him there. I'm disappointed that it didn't work out. Some felt it was controversial, but I feel it was more controversial to invite gay leaders to the White House."

"Speaking of hatemongers. Doug Wead, liaison officer to Southern Baptist Convention president Jerry Vines, on President Bush's declining of an invitation to speak to the group's summer convention. Wead referred to leaders of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) as "anti-religious bigots."

"He's not picky. He told someone he wanted to go to bed with me to see what I'm really like."

"Gossip columnist Liz Smith on Warren Beatty.

"If he wasn't in entertainment, maybe he would be the smartest and best-looking boy who ever ran a gas station — and I mean that as a supreme compliment."

— Filmmaker John Waters, on Johnny Depp, star of Waters' latest film, Cry-Baby.

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