

GAY AND LESBIAN TV AT ITS BEST ▼ GAY CABLE NETWORK NASHVILLE

# G CN GUIDE

N A S H V I L L E



VOL. I, No. 8



AUGUST 1989





## CABLECAST SCHEDULE

The GCN/Nashville Cablecast schedule was not available at the time of printing. Be sure and watch Cable Channel 35 each **Tuesday at 9:00 pm** and **Saturday at 8:00 pm** for the latest in Nashville's lesbian and gay community events and issues.

GCN apologizes for the inconvenience.

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For the last 11 months, GCN/Nashville has been bringing you news and entertainment for the gay and lesbian community. So far, so good.

Well, actually, many viewers have expressed that they'd like to see more Nashville news and locally produced entertainment, and *higher quality*. And we'd like to provide it.

Why can't we? Lack of equipment. Community Access Television has been providing all our equipment... when it works... and when someone else isn't using it. But, faced with destructive budget cuts, CAT

a viable option for order for GCN to to produce pro-improve the qual-programs, income must increase.

Be a part of the

# 1% Solution

may no longer be GCN/Nashville. In continue its effort grams, and to ity of those

Consider that GCN/Nashville is a completely volunteer effort. Consider, too, that over \$600 is spent for each GCN Guide mailing, and that over \$500 is spent monthly on production and administrative expenses. These expenses are unlikely to decrease, and still there's equipment needed. A good professional quality camera and a recorder can cost \$10,000... or more.

Solution? 1%... or more.

It's simple: you or your business might pledge 1% of your \_\_\_\_\_ 1989 income to GCN/Nashville. Painless? **Absolutely**. Inexpensive? **Incredibly** — 1% of \$1,000 is only \$10!

If you'd like to see *more and better* GCN/Nashville, please fill in the pledge form and return it today. Your pledge isn't due until September 15.

☐ Check here if you wish to be anonymous and not listed with the other donors.

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Mail to GCN/N  
P.O. Box 22011  
Nashville, TN 37202



# FIGHT BACK

▼ The American Family Association has launched an all-out drive to stop sponsors from advertising on TV shows with gay or lesbian characters.

Led by the Rev. Donald Wildmon, the Tupelo, Mississippi based AFA claims 380,000 followers and an annual budget of \$5 million. The group made headlines in all the national media by successfully persuading Pepsi to drop its support for Madonna's tour (it found her "Like A Prayer" video blasphemous), Domino's Pizza to pull commercials from *Saturday Night Live*, and Mennen to cancel its sponsorship of ABC's *Heartbeat*.

Since *Heartbeat's* debut last year, the AFA has conducted a nationwide campaign against the show, focusing on lesbian nurse practitioner Marilyn McGrath. For example, the *AFA Journal* reported: "In one scene, two lesbians are talking...evokes sympathy for homosexuality." The AFA urged its followers to write the show's sponsors and threaten to boycott their products if they continued to "promote homosexuality."

In March the Mennen Co. cited mail objecting to the show and pulled its ads (the AFA claimed credit). Shortly afterwards ABC put the show on hiatus. The network had already decided not to renew *Heartbeat* for next season.

Tell Mennen that gays are family, too. Write L. Donald Horn, Chairman, Mennen Company, Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960, or call (201) 631-9000.

P.S. In the May issue of the *AFA Journal*, Rev. Wildmon asks his readers to thank Mennen for its action against *Heartbeat*!

Wildmon also requested that his followers write to the other *Heartbeat* sponsors and

complain about the fact that they didn't pull their ads. These include: Chrm. George L. Bunting, Jr., Noxell Corporation, 11050 York Road, Hunt Valley, MD 21030 and Chrm. D. Wayne Calloway, PepsiCO, Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, NY 10577.

The AFA also protested ABC's *The Women of Brewster Place* miniseries for showing a lesbian relationship, and urged members to write Chrm. Samuel C. Johnson, S.C> Johnson & Sons, Inc. 1525 Howe St., Racine, WI 53403 and to support sponsors who have withstood the AFA's attacks.

P.P.S. With the cancellation of *Heartbeat* and *Hooperman*, and the departure of Hank Eliot from *As The World Turns*, there will be no permanent gay or lesbian characters on network television next season. Get the picture?

ABBY R. RUBENFELD

ATTORNEY AT LAW

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*GCN Guide*, the official publication of **Gay Cable Network/Nashville**, is provided to GCN volunteers, members of the gay and lesbian community, and friends of GCN to keep them abreast of GCN programs, activities, and concerns.

To add names to the GCN mailing list, to change an address, to submit ideas and suggestions for GCN, to sponsor a GCN show, or to advertise in *GCN Guide*, contact:

*GCN/ Nashville*,  
P.O. Box 22011, Nashville, TN 37202  
(615) 254-8250

General Manager  
**KRZYSZTOF KRAKOWIAK**

Executive Director  
**DIANE EASTER**

**GCN Guide**

Publisher  
**JOEL FUQUA**

Editor  
**IRA ROGERS**

Staff Writers  
**DIANE EASTER**  
**LAURA TEK**

Advertising Sales  
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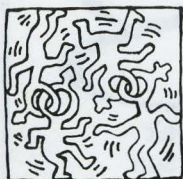
Production Manager  
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The artwork on the cover is a portion of the Stonewall commemorative postal cancellation. The stamp, which was issued last month in New York, is the first official government acknowledgement of **GAY PRIDE** in the United States.

# DEAR DAVID

*GCN encourages letters from our readers to Dear David. We would like to offer you the opportunity to share your pet peeves, problems or off-the-wall questions. Drop Dear David a line: P.O. Box 22011, Nashville, TN 37202*

Dear David,

I am a gay man who has been in a monogamous relationship for nine months. My lover has recently suggested that we should fool around when one or the other is out of town. We both travel with our jobs. I am totally opposed to this and am not sure if I can trust him, knowing he feels this way. What should we do? We don't want the relationship to end.

"Bob"

Dear Bob,

You proceed from your last sentence. If you both want the relationship to work, you must come to an agreement on the nature of your relationship. You seem to have two options. 1) You sit down with your lover and decide to maintain a monogamous relationship (that will immediately demand a long heart to heart follow-up on trust) 2) or you decide to establish an open relationship that includes other sex partners. This will take a lot of understanding on each other's part, as triangles may develop very quickly. Again, the trust issue will be a major component of this lifestyle. You say in your letter that you are completely opposed to this open style. You will simply have to be very honest and express your feelings to your lover. But you also need to prepare yourself emotionally for his response. If he gives up on the idea and you hash out the trust issue, all is well. If he rejects your stand, you will have to decide for yourself if you wish to stay with him

*(continued on next page)*



*(continued from previous page)*

and accept his decision. Or you have to decide to leave him. In either case, there will be an emotional price to pay, and it will be intense. But whatever your decision, to thine own self be true...

*Dear David is a psychologist practicing in Nashville. His responses are limited by the information received in the letters. The responses printed here should in no way replace the need for private counseling. ▽*



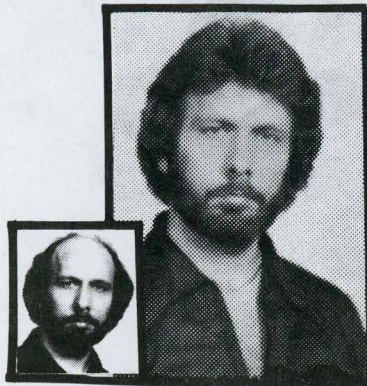
Vanderbilt AIDS Vaccine Evaluation Center is currently seeking healthy persons who are at low risk for exposure to the AIDS virus to participate in research trials which evaluate potential AIDS vaccines. **There is absolutely no risk of acquiring AIDS from these vaccines.** Persons interested in volunteering for AIDS vaccine research must meet the following criteria:

- Age: 18-60 years
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- Available for 12-14 month study

In addition to these general guidelines, volunteers for the present study must have never had a smallpox vaccine. For more information about the current study, or future studies, **please contact:**

**Vanderbilt AIDS Vaccine  
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# CELEBRATE GCN'S 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



*(from left to right)*

*bottom row:*

Angela Thomas - Field camera

Martha Bickley - GCN host

Diane Easter - Executive Director

David Romero - Graphics

Richard Santina - GCN Guide columnist

Dr. Victoria Harris - GCN Expansion Committee

*upper row:*

Jim Phelan - "Between the Lines" - editor

Joel Fuqua - GCN Guide Publisher

Gerritt Wilson - Music Score

Frank Ashe - Administrative assistant

Julie Chase - GCN Guide production

Ira Rogers - GCN Guide editor

Matt Nelson - GCN Expansion Committee

Dr. Deborah Kowalski - Expansion Committee

Krzysztof Krakowiak - General Manager

*not available for photo:*

Penny Campbell - News writer



# ANNIVERSARY SEPTEMBER '89



er  
stant  
tion  
ommittee  
on Committee  
anager

Dr. Gene Copello - GCN Expansion Committee  
Ken Melton - GCN host  
Gregory Fisher - Script writer  
Becky Buckman - GCN Guide layout artist  
James Garman - Administrative assistant  
Laura Tek - GCN Guide Columnist  
Hugh Tenney - Field camera  
Marcia Hewitt - Field camera  
Sam Adams - Art director  
Terry Dunn - Stage set

## EVENTS

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 10**

**THE CHUTE**  
**BENEFIT SHOW FOR GCN**  
9:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 16**

**THE GAS LITE LOUNGE**  
**BENEFIT SHOW**

Featuring:  
Singer, Gerritt Wilson  
Pianist, Randy Williams of Nashville City Ballet  
"Feuding Fairies", GCN vs. DARE  
Master of Ceremony, Ricky Rocket &  
Chena Lawrence  
8:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 24**

**THE WAREHOUSE 28**  
**THE GALA EVENING**  
**TO CELEBRATE**  
**GCN'S 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

GCN's Annual Awards Ceremony  
Guest Speakers & Featuring  
The Tennessee Dance Theater  
Master of Ceremony, Martha Bickley &  
Ken Melton  
8:30 p.m.



## GCN COMBATS CAMERA SHYNESS

BY LAURA TEK

It is GCN's burning desire to capture and record Nashville's entire, large, diverse and exciting gay and lesbian community and everything it has to offer. To be a part of all its events and activities is our greatest thrill. It is, therefore, most disappointing when we are denied permission to attend and cover such happenings for our viewing community.

We at GCN/Nashville want to provide for our gay and lesbian community the best medium possible from which to receive news and entertainment. Our goal is to rely less and less on our Los Angeles and New York feeds and provide more of our own programming. Yet we have been frustrated in our attempts to do this. Of the various events GCN wishes to cover, approximately one out of four requests are turned down by officials. Even when we are granted permission to cover an event, restrictions are almost always imposed on us such as "film only the performer, not the audience". Such

restrictions will not always produce the most interesting or aesthetic product.

The most overwhelming factor inhibiting these organizers from lending GCN their full support is their lack of trust in us. We wish to alleviate this problem of trust, which unfortunately stems from our community's experiences with the mainstream media. Its reporting tactics have been prejudicial, intrusive and disruptive toward us, causing many of us to feel hateful of them. So GCN can understand why many in our community might feel uncomfortable in front of a camera, even our camera.

Organizers and participants alike should know that they have very little to fear from GCN. We would never, through our coverage, intentionally inhibit or adversely effect any event or activity. It would be devastating to do so because television, for so many in our community, is the primary source of information and we'd want that information to be received correctly. We need to reach everybody, especially the ones who stay at home because of fear or inaccessibility. Through our coverage, we can educate not only the gay public, but the straight public as well. Only by gaining a broader knowledge of our community can greater understanding and support for gay men and lesbians be possible.

So to all of you reluctant organizers and participants out there, help yourselves by helping us reach Nashville's gay men and lesbians. Consider allowing GCN to become a part of your organization or event. Exposure on GCN can only have a positive effect on you and on our viewing community. ▼

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# COMMENTARY

BY IRA ROGERS

## STRAIGHT MEN AS FRIENDS

Hail to one of America's unsung heroes; the red-blooded, non-homophobic heterosexual male. He may be a rarity (some might contend no such creature exists), but I have encountered several in my travels who are worthy of praise. This is a tribute to that uncommon breed of male.

Shawn and his wife are two of my best friends. They have a beautiful little two-year-old boy and another baby due any day. Shawn and I became close friends before he met his wife. We would stay up half the night drinking Stolichnaya vodka, writing songs and spewing witticisms. We had no problem keeping each other in stitches. Occasionally one of us would relate a story of personal heartbreak; he about his ex-girlfriends and I about my failed marriage. We listened and commiserated. When our friendship was still very young, I felt I needed to come out to Shawn. Our bond had grown too deep to keep up the charade. I told him about a college student I was dating at the time. His response was calm, warm and reassuring. He had known many gay men while working as a fitness counselor in a New York health club. I could sense he was genuinely untroubled by the whole issue. Five years have passed and I can still confide in Shawn. When a personal problem gets me down, Shawn offers me a big, long hug. I respect and love him.

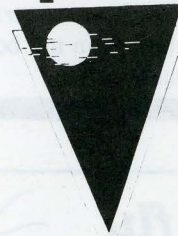
Brent is a relatively new friend. We do not have the history I have shared with Shawn. But something told me that Brent was "OK" as soon as I met him. He is outgoing, funny, and he freely reveals his positively charged personality. He is also a dynamite musician who plays with a famous group. Recently we caught a late showing of "Dead Poets Society". The film was intense and poignant. Brent's reactions during the movie were sometimes more overt than my own. At one dramatic point, we looked at each other for several

seconds and Brent's eyes were plainly filled with tears. I was touched that he had not tried to hide this emotion from me and I assuringly pressed his knee. It was a great connection, a non-sexual sharing of tenderness between two men. Brent does not know of my sexual leanings, and I know only that he is divorced and dates women. I am not physically attracted to him, but I like and admire him a great deal. I won't soon forget that vulnerable moment we shared in the movie theatre.

For me, there is something especially wonderful about the kind of intimacy I've enjoyed with Shawn and Brent. It feels as though we have resurrected in our friendships some ancient bond that men as brothers once shared. Long before words like "sissy" and "faggot" were invented by a sexist, oppressive society, I imagine that men felt free to play, laugh and cry around each other. To appear vulnerable or to nurture each other emotionally or physically was not, perhaps, considered taboo as it is in our "advanced" culture.

*continued on next page*

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*continued from previous page*

In some Native American (Indian) tribes, men who chose traditionally "female" roles in life were often accorded special status and revered by other tribe members for their distinct sensibilities. Imagine how our self-esteem as gays would soar if modern society were blessed with such wisdom!

That gay men can often act freely and openly with each other within their closed social settings (i.e., bars and parties) gives hope that male-bonding instincts are not lost forever. But gays hold an advantage over straights in that area; having shared physical intimacy with each other makes it easier to handle social intimacy. Most straight men, on the other hand, are constantly constructing subtle and blatant barriers between themselves and other men. For them, even a simple embrace to greet an old friend at the airport would be unthinkable behavior. How lonely it must feel to exist inside their competitive, impenetrable shell of machismo, devoid of really sensitive male companionship.

I would never trade the closeness I have shared with Shawn and Brent for an existence dictated by unwarranted and arbitrary fears. Because these guys have stepped away from certain prescribed male roles, by lovingly accepting my weaknesses, my compassion, and my joy at being free in their presence, one man to another, one *person* to another, they are truly valued friends in my book. May their kind be fruitful and multiply. ▼

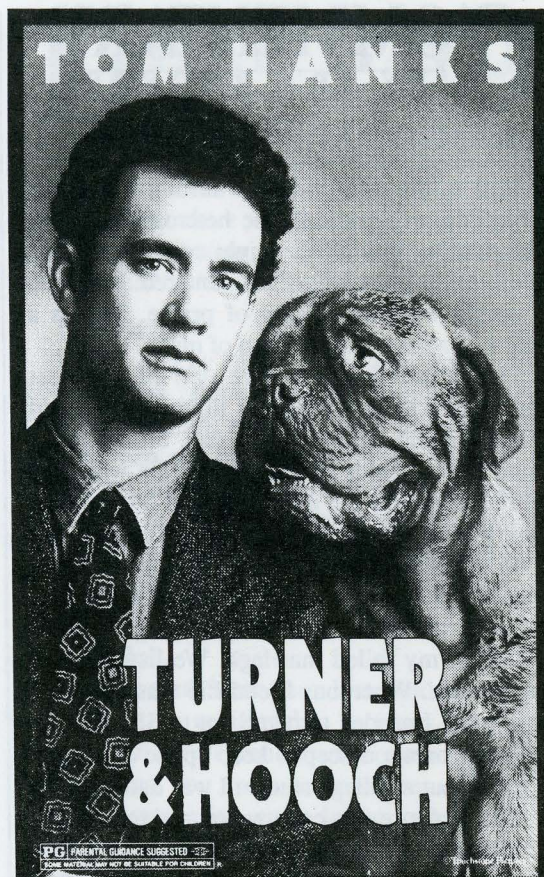
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# PINK PAGE

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## SOCIAL CLUBS:

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▼ If you would like to list your business or service on GCN'S Pink Page - Please call us at: (615) 254-8250.



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- August 2 **Vanderbilt Lambda Business Meeting.** Peabody House, 7:00.
- August 5 **Nashville Women's Alliance Coffeehouse.**  
*Featuring - Annie Freeman, Steff Schettera, & Jane Pittman*  
*Opening - Linda Johnson*  
 7:30 pm, Unitarian Church, 1808 Woodmont Blvd.
- August 7 **TGALA meeting.** Fannie Mae Dees Park, 6:30 pm, 297-4293.
- August 7 & 21 **Magnet meeting, MCC,** 320-0288.  
 Trudie & Ray Barerras - 7th
- August 8 & 22 **Nashville Women's Alliance meeting.** BookOasis, 7:30 p.m.  
 Call 883-4833 for info.
- August 21 **Nashville NOW meeting.** Belmont United Methodist Church, 7:00 pm. 269-7141.
- August 23 **Vanderbilt Lambda's Ice Cream on the Lawn.** Bring a pint of your favorite dessert to dish on the lawn. Peabody House, 7:00 pm
- August 26 **Women's Equality Day**  
 Nashville Cares holds weekly ARC/AIDS support groups. For more info. call 385-1510.



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