GCN GUIDE
NASHVILLE

VOL. II, No. 3
MARCH 1990

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

CENSORED

Very Secret Passions Story, page 4
### March Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9:00 p.m. Channel 35</td>
<td>March 6 — A look back at the Gayest Event of the Season; Michelle Crone talks about the National Lesbian Conference; Journey wins the battle; T-GALA’s 90’s strategy; More! See Sat. March 10...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 8:00 p.m. Channel 35</td>
<td>10 — cont. KKK marches in Pulaski; Texas Two-Stepping with the Girls; Berry Hill Police &amp; gay harassment; Sam Adams talks about the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 8:00 p.m. Channel 35</td>
<td>11 — Secret Passions, a new gay soap opera, produced by David Gadberry.</td>
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<td>Saturday 8:00 p.m. Channel 35</td>
<td>17 — Secret Passions, a new gay soap opera, produced by David Gadberry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 8:00 p.m. Channel 35</td>
<td>18 — Pornography Destroys? Hedy Weinberg and Michael Gillstrap examine the issue. Abuse of gay teenagers at Hick-Hollow Mall by security officers; More! See Sat, March 24...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 8:00 p.m. Channel 35</td>
<td>21 — cont. Medical students at Meharry &amp; their opinions about homosexuality; AIDSWALK NASHVILLE, April 21; Music City Sports Assn.; T-GALA's Out &amp; About Ball; Phil Thomas talks about People of All Colors Together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8:00 p.m. Channel 35</td>
<td>25 — Lifestyle Update: The fun that won the West! Pioneer Days Country Fair. Celebrating 10 years of pride this fun filled event is a real down home country affair. More! See Sat, March 31...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 8:00 p.m. Channel 35</td>
<td>28 — Welcome to LIFE LEAP, a celebration of life through dance. Over 70 dancers performing the works of eight top Los Angeles choreographers in a two-act experience of healing the hope.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Easter says “Goodbye”

Diane Easter, a co-founder of Gay Cable Network/Nashville has resigned as GCN Executive Director.

From the inception of GCN, Easter has held various functions ranging from being a spokesperson to producing and writing GCN's monthly *Between the Lines*.

Diane’s dedication to volunteer work has inspired many of the GCN volunteer staff. Her ideas and determination were instrumental in keeping GCN on the air during the difficult times.

Diane leaves GCN to pursue other interests. Her talents will be greatly missed.

The entire Gay Cable Network/Nashville wishes to thank Diane for her dedication and hard work and wishes her the best of luck in her continuing endeavors.
INSIDE GCN

BY KEN FRIEDMAN

On February 1, the newly formed Board of Directors for GCN/Nashville met for the first time. The purpose of the Board is to counsel the Network with regard to their policies, procedures and general supervision.

Members of the Board were selected in an effort to represent a cross-section of supporters of both the gay and lesbian community. The members are Sharon Byers, Dr. A Gene Copello, Gregory Fisher, Ken Friedman (a.k.a. Diana Hutton), Dr. Victoria Harris, Deborah Kowalski, Tommy Lawson (a.k.a. Minnie Squirrel), Deanne Oliva, Cathy Stallings, Sue Ross, and Phil Thomas. The representatives will serve for either a one or two year term.

Once the Board meeting came to order, an election was held for its officers with the following results: Deborah Kowalski, President; Tommy Lawson, President Elect; Ken Friedman, Secretary; and Sue Ross, Treasurer.

After the by-laws for the organization were read and approved, a Finance Committee was established to advise GCN with its budget. A Development Committee was formed to suggest and assist with this year’s fundraising activities.

A variety of events, benefit shows and programs are planned with proceeds going toward the purchase of much needed video equipment and permanent office space for GCN.

The first fundraiser planned is a benefit show at the Cabaret, Thursday, April 12 with a variety of local and out-of-town entertainment.

There is still one Board position open. Volunteers are also needed to assist with fundraising events, production and distribution of the GCN Cable Guide, and script writing and editing of the weekly cablecast shows.

Anyone interested in serving on the Board or who would like to help in any capacity, please contact a current Board member or GCN directly.

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A secret about ‘Secret Passions’
BY IRA ROGERS

A new gay soap opera entitled “Secret Passions”
was to have premiered February 20 on GCN/Nashville. Only a few other cities in the coun­
try could boast this distinction. However, as some of
you already know, the program was not aired in this
city as scheduled. Viewers were told at the last
minute that “Secret Passions” would not be shown
and to call GCN for more details. We feel you have
a right to know what really happened.

On the day before the scheduled airing of “Secret
Passions”, the episode was screened by Elliott
Mitchell (Executive Director of Community Access
Television - CAT) and Dixie Aubrey (Community
Relations Director of CAT). Members of the GCN
staff were also present for the screening, which went
smoothly. None of CAT’s rules banning obscenity,
advertising and lotteries were broken. No objections
regarding content were raised by Mr. Mitchell or
Ms. Aubrey. Accordingly, GCN decided to run the
program the following evening.

Seven hours prior to the scheduled airing,
Krzysztof Krakowiak (General Manager of GCN)
received a phone call from Elliott Mitchell inform­
ing him that an ad hoc meeting of CAT’s Board of
Directors had taken place that day. Further, the
Board introduced and implemented a policy requir­
ing the entire Board to screen and approve all “con­
 troversial programming” prior to airing. Such a
screening would have been impossible given the
conveniently late timing of this decision. Conse­
quently the airing would be cancelled for that
evening. Period. (Adding insult to injury, callers to
the station were told by Ms. Aubrey that the cancel­
lation was a result of the tape being unavailable!)

Could this be homophobia at its Nashville best?
Indeed, but not without an equally disturbing politi­
cal backdrop. The CAT channel is funded mainly by
the local government, an unfortunate situation which
in the past has placed the future of GCN on the
chopping block. It is no secret that certain members

Continued on page 10
UP AND COMING

BY KRZYSZTOF KRAKOWIAK

You will find several interesting reports in our March edition of Between the Lines.” Our lead story is about the Nashville Coalition Against Pornography. Should the gay community be concerned about the campaign? Michael Gillstrap, the Director of the Coalition will address this issue. Victor Pestrak, a licensed Hendersonville psychologist, and Hedy Weinberg of the Nashville chapter of the ACLU will tell you why the campaign is deceptive and whether it may affect you.

Last month we reported on the Berry Hill Police Department and their unfair practices of raiding gay bars on Franklin Road. This time you’ll hear from gay teen-agers and their experiences with security officers at the Hickory Hollow Mall.

A survey about attitudes toward homosexuality was conducted among the first year medical students at the Meharry Medical College. Following the survey, a panel discussion was held. Several lesbians and gay men from the Nashville area answered questions from the students. Subsequently, another survey was conducted and the results compared. Tune in to find out whether the panel discussion made any difference in these students’ understanding of our sexuality.

We’ll give you an update on AIDSWALK NASHVILLE and let you see what this group is doing to prepare for this pledge walk. AIDSWALK will be held April 21.

The Music City Sports Association is one new organization in our community. We talk to the organizers about their efforts to create the first gay athletic group in Nashville. Then, Phil Thomas will talk about the plans and goals of PACT, People of All Colors Together, a newly formed lesbian and gay interracial organization.

Finally, we’ll take a look back at T-GALA’s Out and About Valentine’s Ball. Stay tuned and let us know what you’d like to see on GCN because...we’re here for you!

Recycle your pre-read lesbian, gay and AIDS books* for 20% of face value!

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Volunteers needed for AIDS Vaccine Evaluations

We need healthy adults age 18-60 who are at low risk for HIV exposure (abstinent or monogamous homosexual or heterosexual relationship for at least one year, no IV drug abuse) available for 12-14 month study.

Volunteers must not have had a smallpox vaccination

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

VANDERBILT AIDS VACCINE EVALUATION CENTER at 343-2437 (343-AIDS)
New gay organization forming

People of All Colors Together (PACT) is a newly-formed lesbian and gay organization that supports relations which cross ethnic and cultural boundaries. This organization will bring together lesbians and gays of all races who share a common bond — interracial relationships. We will address the realities of our own feelings about race in a helpful and constructive manner.

Perhaps most importantly, PACT, because of its specific interracial orientation, will provide a place where people can meet without fear that their friendliness will be rejected outright because of their color.

PACT will sponsor social and cultural awareness programs and events, and will include some measure of political action motivated by the refusal to allow oneself or one's friends to be publicly insulted. Much emphasis will be placed on AIDS advocacy.

As with Black and White Men Together (BWMT), an interracial support organization, people who will join PACT to indulge in sexual racist fantasies will be disappointed. Getting to know people as individuals with real personalities takes time, dedication and personal growth. The closest chapters of BWMT are in Atlanta, Memphis and Louisville.

PACT will attempt to enhance the positive structure of BWMT and provide support to those interested who live in this region.

PACT appreciates the efforts and support of the national chapter of BWMT and the Bay Area Lesbians of Color.

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AIDSWALK
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329-6473
Dear Friend,

On May 13, 1988, my lover, Rebecca, was murdered. I survived, with five bullet wounds. At the trial of the attacker, it was proven that we were attacked because of who we were — two lesbians, two women living our lives and our love for each other.

On May 13, Rebecca and I were hiking on the Appalachian Trail in Adams County, PA. At our campsite that morning, a man asked Rebecca for a cigarette. Later that day on the trails that same man was walking behind us. He had a rifle. He asked if we were lost. We said no and continued down a side trail and he continued on the main trail; we never saw him again.

Late that afternoon, Rebecca and I stopped and made camp near a stream. It was a secluded spot and some distance from the trail. We ate, made love, and rested.

Suddenly, there were gunshots. The shots were so sudden, so loud, so violent, that at first I didn’t even realize that they were gun shots or that we were the targets — except there was so much blood.

I was shot in the upper arm, twice in the neck, in the head and face. Rebecca told me to run behind a nearby tree. As she followed me, Rebecca was shot in the head and the back. The shooting finally stopped. Someplace deep within me, I began to understand how badly hurt we were. I had to get help. I gave Rebecca all the first aid I could think of and started out for help. Before I left, Rebecca was unconscious. We never had a chance to say goodbye.

After reaching help, I was airlifted to a trauma unit for emergency surgery. The next day I learned that they found Rebecca’s body. She died from the bullet wound in the back.

My ordeal did not end with the horror of Rebecca’s death. The police caught the man who attacked us and murdered Rebecca. He hid eighty feet away in the woods, shot to kill, and left us for dead. During the legal proceedings that followed, it became clear that he attacked us because we were lesbians. His lawyer even implied that Rebecca and I had provoked the attack with our sexuality. The trial judge refused to allow this line of argument. On October 27, 1988, Stephen Roy Carr was convicted of first degree murder and later sentenced to life in prison without parole.

One immediate source of support was the NGLTF. Days after the attack, they were there with encouragement and legal help. I am writing to you now because I want to strengthen the organization that came to my help when I needed it most. I am writing to recruit your help for NGLTF in their effort to challenge and end the violence lesbians and gay men face every day. I am appealing to you to join me in the campaign against anti-gay violence by making a donation to the Task Force today. Thank you for listening to my story and responding.

Sincerely,
Claudia Brenner

P.S. This has been a very difficult letter for me to write. I do so because I want to see anti-gay anti-lesbian violence end. Please stand with me and support the Task Force.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is America’s foremost national gay and lesbian civil rights organization. Since its founding in 1973, NGLTF has been in the forefront of every major struggle for the rights of gay people. Today, the Task Force has grown into thousands of members, representing every state in the nation. With their support, NGLTF works to create a society where gays and lesbians can live free from violence, bigotry and discrimination.

**NGLTF ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT**

Dear Claudia,

I am making this contribution in memory of Rebecca and all the victims of anti-gay anti-lesbian violence. And in hope of a future where people are not hated because of who they love.

☐ $100  ☐ $200  ☐ Other $__

With your gift of $50 or more, you will receive the Task Force’s 40 page report: Anti-gay Violence, Victimization and Defamation in 1988.

Please make your check payable to NGLTF and mail it to NGLTF, 1517 U Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20009. NGLTF is a non-profit 501-c-4 organization. Since the Task Force is a political lobbying organization, contributions do not qualify for tax-deductible status.
COMMENTARY

This Blooming Season
BY IRA ROGERS

A young man clad only in snug gym shorts hurls an orange-colored frisbee across a college lawn. A jogger’s heavy breathing becomes sensually audible as he fleetingly enters my immediate range. I gasp as well-filled jeans go swaggering across a busy street, then suddenly an unexpected flash of flesh as rippling back muscles, just out of reach, glimmer under the bright noontime sun.

Could this all be some cruel conspiracy to throw me off course? Surely, a higher power is scheming to make me late for an appointment, or even worse, drive me totally mad with desire. Don’t you hate when that happens?

As my unfulfilled urges throw me into a familiar and somewhat cheap tizzy, it dawns on me that I’ve been stricken with that perennial affliction for which only one cure, albeit elusive, exists. Every year it takes hold without warning, and although I am aware that others have “caught” it too, still I feel quite alone in my suffering.

Spring Fever. A condition when plant food replaces driveway salt in the garage, when colorful lightweight quilts upstage those drab woolen blankets, and the interminable blahs of winter are finally shattered by an overwhelming hormonal upheaval.

Continued on page 9

CORRESPONDENCE

An unidentified male caller to GCN:
“I think you ought to get the faggots off the TV. I think it’s sick and I’m gonna do my damndest to get the s...t off. Pitiful!”

An unidentified female caller to GCN:
“I’m from out-of-town. Keep up the good work!”

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Sunday Brunch: Noon – 3:00 P.M.
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Continued on page 9

Just when it feels there is no hope in sight, suddenly there is too much hope in sight.

Zoologists call it mating season, poets ponder a young man's fancy, and songwriters of another generation croon about the joys of strolling through the park (hmmm, some things just don't change). Car stereos seem to blast louder, while ice cream cones take on renewed appeal (or is it merely the act of licking?). The promise of warm, moonlit nights motivates us through dreamy, listless mornings. Welcome, sweet Springtime, we greet thee in song.

I could go on extolling the sights and sounds of the season (ooh baby, especially the sights) but I'd rather not think so hard when the weather's so fine. Besides, I hear there's a pretty HOT frisbee toss going on at the park.

See you there?
Continued from page 4

of the City Council are vocally homophobic and opposed to GCN’s existence. (Tandy Wilson is a prime example.) Doubtless, Elliott Mitchell must appease these Council members to procure continued funds for CAT. Somewhere along the way, however, Mr. Mitchell seems to have lost touch with the most precious ideal of community access, namely, the freedom of expression. A one-time ally of GCN, Mitchell has apparently shuffled his priorities in an attempt to fall into the good graces of folks like Councilman Wilson. Granted, part of his mission must be to ensure the longevity of CAT, but ironically he is shortchanging the basic philosophy and vision upon which CAT is founded.

The crux of the problem probably does not lie with Elliott Mitchell’s personality or his administrative skills. In a sense he is as much a victim of the system as GCN. As long as CAT, a vehicle for free speech, is funded (i.e., controlled) by the government, the tendency to censor will prevail. Not until CAT somehow frees itself of these bureaucratic shackles can it rise above the small minds who presume to know what is best for everyone. To lose government funding would create hardship for CAT, but at least the spirit of free expression would be protected from the politics of prejudice.

Editor’s Note: “Secret Passions” is scheduled to air in March pending approval by CAT’s Board of Directors.

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