

April 8, 2004

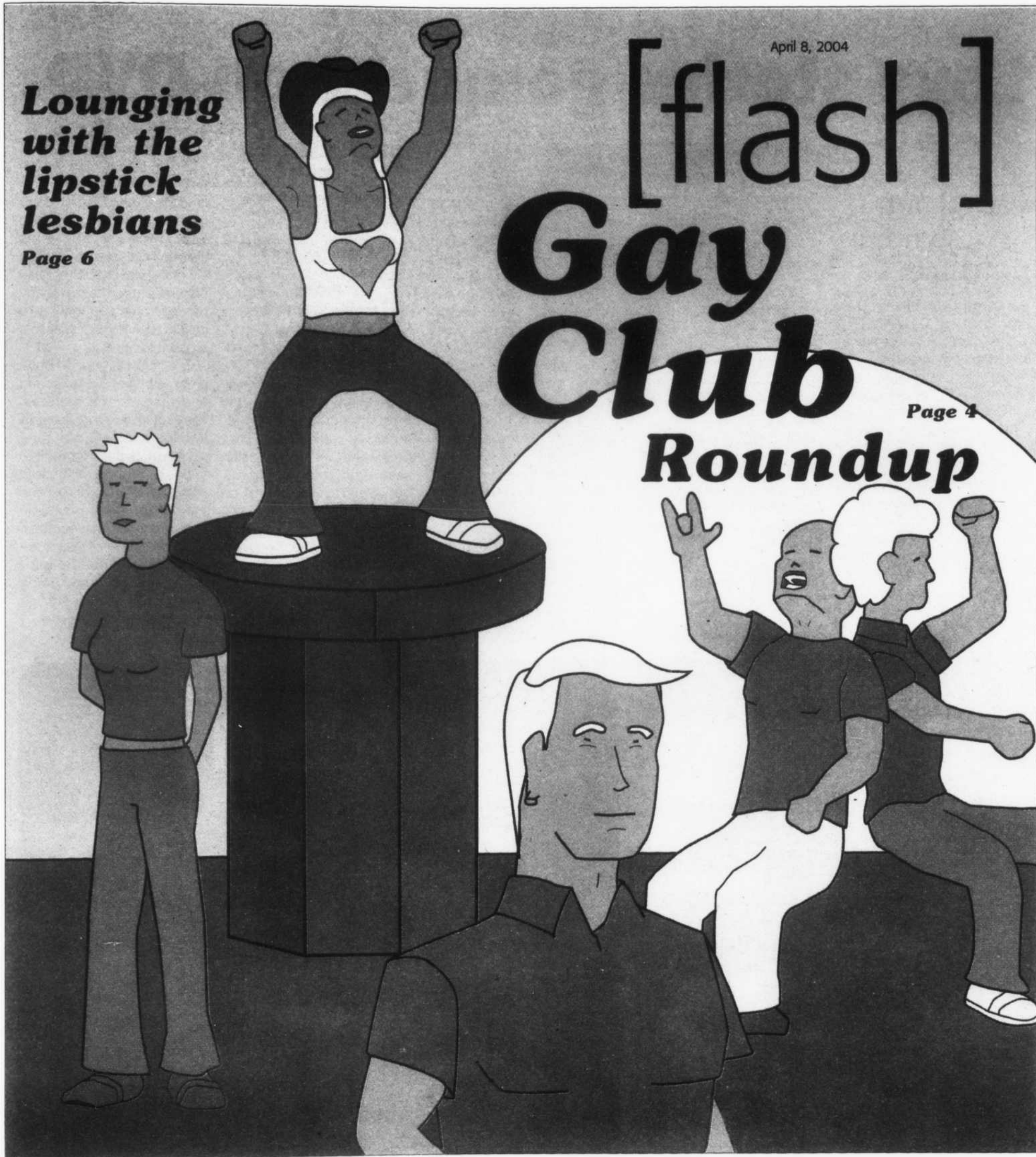
**Lounging
with the
lipstick
lesbians**

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Roundup



Love stories go queer on DVD

'Maurice,' 'Tipping the Velvet' put new spin on romance

By Sarah Crotzer

The film and television industries are not often kind to people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. Although there are more characters representing us in today's entertainment, they still tend to fall back on the idea that a gay person's life revolves completely around the fact that they are, well, gay, and thus defined only by that one facet of life. This week, I'm very pleased to present two works – now available on digital versatile disc – that

seek to redress the balance.

Maurice is an early Merchant/Ivory picture, and as any fan knows, lush cinematography and gorgeous period detail typify their films. *Maurice* certainly doesn't disappoint.

James Wilby is Maurice Hall, a turn-of-the-century Cambridge student who falls in love with his friend Clive, played by Hugh

Grant. Clive is more reticent to a relationship and after some back-and-forth, eventually marries a woman. Maurice is then left to rebuild his life and face the challenges of a society that he fears, but he doesn't expect to fall in love again.

Tipping the Velvet, on the other hand, is a recent three-part miniseries from the British Broadcasting Corporation. *Velvet* focuses on the Victorian-era life of young Nan Astley, who falls for and befriends Kitty Butler, a male impersonator. What follows is a three-hour journey of romance, disguise, gender bending – and, ultimately, Nan finding her own place in the world. It's sweet and surprisingly fast-paced, with some oddly addictive music hall songs.

Despite a 15-year gap, these stories aren't really all

'Tipping the Velvet'

2002, TV

Starring Rachael Stirling,
Keeley Hawes, Jodhi May

Rated Not rated

Rating

Movie ★★★★★

DVD ★★★★★

(out of four stars)

that different. What I like most about them is they're both love stories – love stories that we've actually seen time and time again, but with somewhat of a new spin.

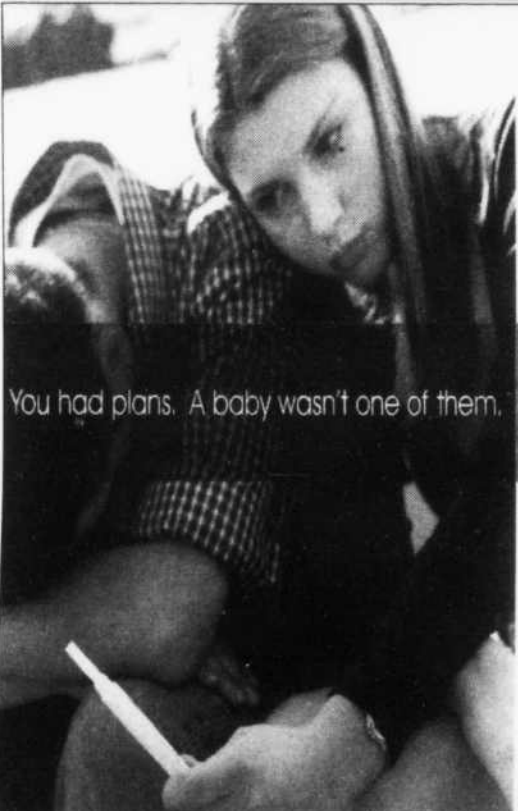
We've all seen movies where a boy and girl from opposite sides of the tracks fall in love, or where high school sweethearts are torn apart by bigger aspirations. These are much the same,

except it's boy meets boy, and girl meets girl.

Since lesbianism was never made illegal in Britain (and the characters don't have to run from the law), *Tipping the Velvet* is especially reminiscent of a classic romance. I think that can only be a good thing. Many modern gay films are cultish and inaccessible to a broad audience.

The DVDs both have great picture qualities and one or two nice features. They're a fun way to drift through a couple of hours, alone or with some like-minded friends. I should know; I watched *Tipping the Velvet* three times in one week. Er, of course, it might be better if you actually have a social life, but I can't see anyone going wrong with either of these delightful visual treats. ★

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Lesbian rocker bridges mainstream gap

by Joey Hood

Lez-friendly rocker and Nashville transplant Jen Foster is gradually cementing her place within an otherwise prevalently heterosexual record industry. Her starkly evocative same-sex-attraction-ode, "She," earned top honors at both the Great American Songwriting Contest and the John Lennon Songwriting Contest.

Currently, Foster is expanding her fan base through a stylish, grassroots campaign.

With her self-made record label, American Garage Recordings, in tow, Foster's "Used Black Cars" has gained notoriety among progressive rock radio listeners.

Recently, Foster chatted with [flash] editor Joey Hood about being openly gay in the contemporary music scene.

Joey Hood: When did you first realize that you wanted to become a songwriter?

Jen Foster: When I was 16, I wrote my first song. Initially, I was just imitating my brothers, who were playing in rock bands at the time.

JH: I saw on your Web site where you attended Whittier College for a brief period. Did you become sidetracked?

JF: For me, college was a time to get experience. I wasn't really looking at college from the standpoint of obtaining a college degree.

JH: Well, since this is the Gay Nashville issue of [flash], what has been your experience being openly gay within

the record industry?

JF: Five years ago, my friends encouraged me not to talk about [being gay]. But gay people have made advances since then. I think that word is starting to come around with the debate over gay marriage and television shows like *The L Word* and *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*. Currently, the record industry is encouraging me to talk about being gay. It's certainly a topic that everyone has an opinion about.

JH: Your recent release *Everybody's Girl* includes the much-talked about, same-sex-attraction-ode, "She." What inspired you to write this song?

JF: I attended this U2 concert in 2001. And up until that point, I didn't push the gay issue. But I left the concert with this musical high and sense of empowerment. I realized that I needed to talk about being gay through music. Later that night, I wrote "She," which came straight from my heart. I find that the best songs come straight from your heart, without any fear of repercussions.

Jen Foster opens for Justin Earle and the Swindlers tonight at 3rd & Lindsley. The show begins at 7 p.m. The cover charge is \$5.★

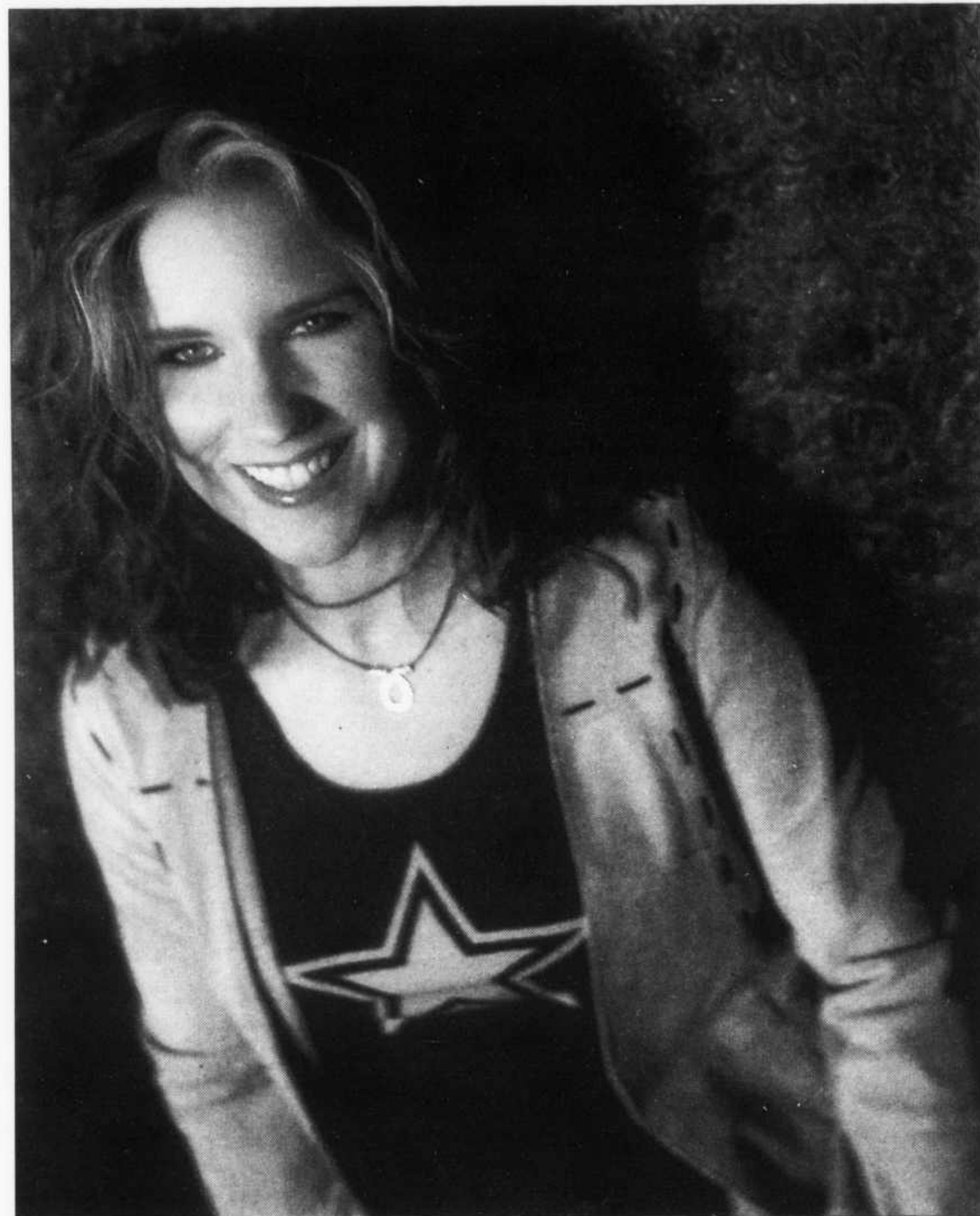


Photo provided by Jen Foster

Jen Foster's "Used Black Cars" is receiving heavy rotation on Nashville's progressive rock station, WRLT Lightning 100. You can catch Foster tonight at 3rd and Lindlsey.

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Gay Club roundup

By Callie Elizabeth Butler

When it comes to Nashville's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender scene, there are lots of options to choose from. Here are *[flash]*'s top picks for fun with lots of pride.

Tribe

1517 Church Street
329-2912

Tribe describes itself as a "big city" music video bar and restaurant, and the description definitely fits this lively hangout.

Multiple televisions and a large, centralized screen light the otherwise dim bar area.

Tribe's patrons are mostly men, with a few ladies thrown in for good measure.

Tribe's friendly bartenders can whip up virtually any drink your alcohol-craving heart desires, along with cola and water for the designated drivers.

If you're in the mood for food, Tribe serves up a wide array of tasty eats, from the Tribal Burger to steamed mussels. The dining area is set apart from the bar area, so you can enjoy a delicious meal in a quieter setting.

Tribe is a great place to meet new faces and connect with others in Nashville's gay community. If you're straight, don't pass Tribe by, though. The welcoming atmosphere makes it a great place for anyone, although a gay-friendly attitude is obviously a must.

The Connection

901 Cowan Street
742-1166

Once exclusively a club for the gay community, The Connection now attracts men and women of all sexual orientations.

There's something for every persuasion in this multi-themed, 48,000-square-foot dance club.

Whether country music and a game of pool is what you're looking for or if you're eager to shake your booty, The Connection has both - along with multiple lounge areas for one-on-one chatter. And if you're in the mood to sit back with a beer and catch the best drag show in Nashville, make Cowan Street your destination. The Connection serves up the best drag shows from some of the most talented performers in the area. Pick Saturday night for your trip to The Connection because that's when things are really hoppin'.

The Connection is not a place to stay seated all night. The music is loud, and the drinks will knock you out, but a lounge is available with plush couches for you to catch your breath. If you're under 21, don't fear! Youngsters can get in with a sponsor.

The Chute Complex

2535 Franklin Road
297-4571

If you are looking for an older crowd with lots of the young bar-hoppers mixed in, head down to The Chute Complex.

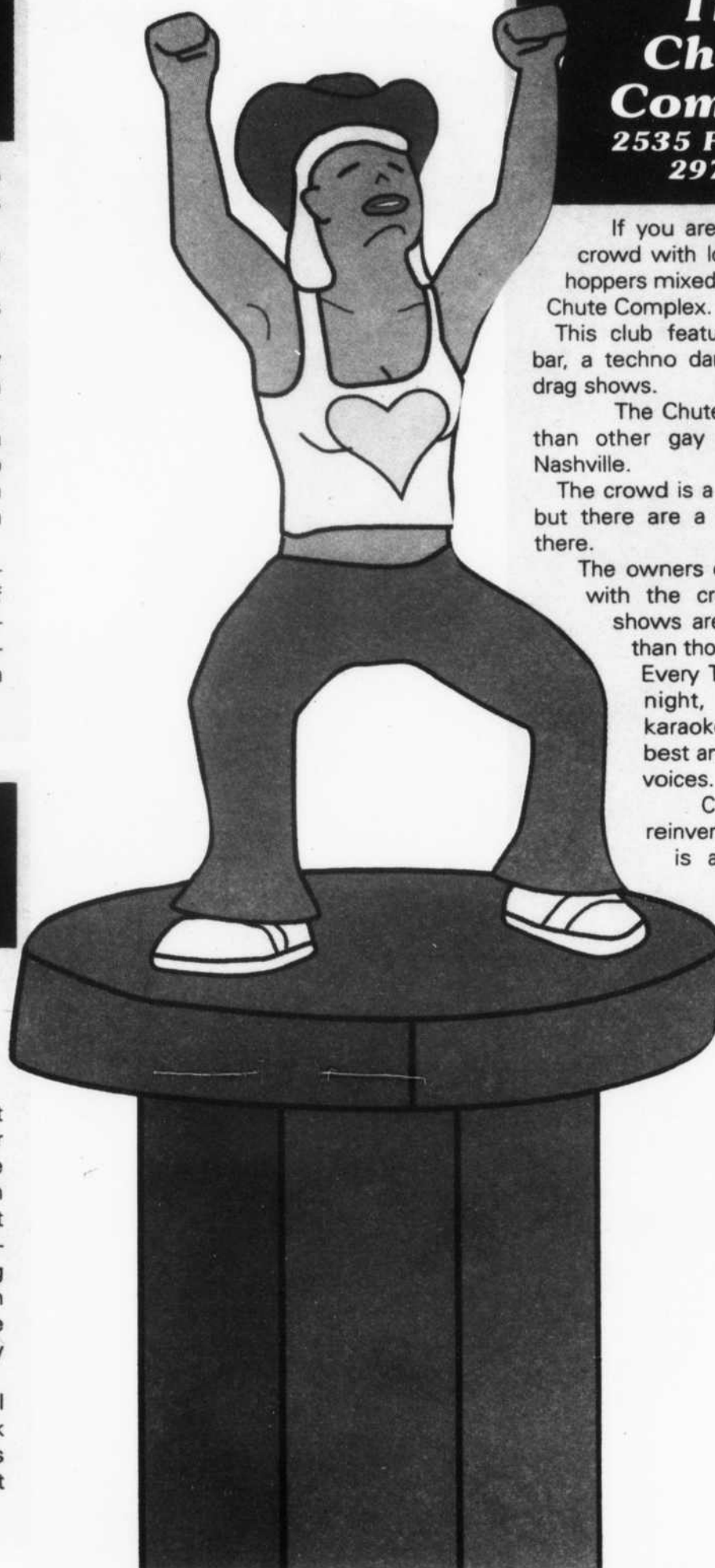
This club features pool, a western bar, a techno dance floor and nightly drag shows.

The Chute is less sophisticated than other gay gathering places in Nashville.

The crowd is a male-dominated one, but there are a few ladies here and there.

The owners can be seen mingling with the crowds, and the drag shows are far more interactive than those at The Connection. Every Tuesday and Thursday night, The Chute hosts karaoke, highlighting the best and worst of Nashville's voices.

Constantly growing and reinventing itself, The Chute is a great hangout for everyone who loves a lively drag show and a tasty mixed drink. ★



Lounging with the lipstick lesbians

East Nashville joint caters to the ladies

By Calley Stroud

Looking for new fellowship? Consider East Nashville's Lipstick Lounge. Located at 1400 Woodland Street, The Lipstick Lounge is one of Nashville's new hot spots.

Jonda Valentine, one of the three openly lesbian owners, says the only difference between her business and church is that she has to pay taxes.

On Sundays, the lounge offers a gospel brunch, which melds fervent gospel hymns alongside deep-fried southern cooking.

Karaoke, live music, food, drinks and an assorted crowd transcends the moldy stereotype that The Lipstick Lounge is only a bar for lesbians.

"It's everyone's bar, whether you are heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual," co-owner Christa Suppan said during a recent interview with *[flash]*.

The ambience is absolutely enchanting. The snugly inclusive atmosphere is modeled after New York City's thriving gay bar scene. Think *Sex and the City*'s skinny cosmopolitan drinking bar-hoppers meet the sinewy lads of *Queer as Folk*.

The walls are adorned with Valentine's renderings of film starlets like Tallulah Bankhead and Greta Garbo.

Additional art titillates the eyes, leading one up the stairs and down the hall.

The upstairs walls feature two artists every three

months at zero commission for The Lipstick Lounge.

The club also offers visitors a charming smoking room, which is embellished with black and white photographs, antique furniture and books.

Finally, for the more playful, The Lipstick Lounge generously provides free pool in their game room with muscled, shirtless wonders splayed out in accessible coffee-table books.

College night is on Thursdays. The owners suggest you come early to get a table.

The Lipstick Lounge serves a packed house on a regular basis. Co-eds from as far away as Tuscaloosa

regularly partake in the lively parlor games.

For more information on upcoming events at The Lipstick Lounge visit their Web site at www.thelipsticklounge.com. ★



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[Club Listings]

Thursday, April 8

Boro Bar & Grill: Seven Days Divided, 9:30 p.m., \$5-7.

The End: Need to Breathe, Part Time Heroes, The Peter Moon Band, 9 p.m.

Exit/In: The Derek Trucks Band, 9 p.m., \$15-17.

The Five Spot: Johnny Microwave, Reckless Johnny Wales, Ashley Stephenson, 9 p.m.

The Muse: Hell, Pyro Tech, 10 p.m., \$3.

The Sutler: Verbena Court Strut Band, Bianca Briceno, 9:30 p.m., \$5.

★**3rd & Lindsley:** Jen Foster, Justin Earle and the Swindlers, 7 p.m., \$5.

12th & Porter: Fugitive Glue, John Fishell, Travesty Theory, 9 p.m., \$5.

Wall Street: Brian Mesko, 9:30 p.m.

Windows on the Cumberland: Molly Thomas, Rowland Stebbins, Sons of Bachelors, 9 p.m.

Friday, April 9

All American Sports Grill: The Max Band, 10 p.m., \$3.

Boro Bar & Grill: Derailed, Paradigm Eye, State of Decay, 9:30 p.m., \$5-7.

Caffeine: The Rucksack Wanderers, 9 p.m.

The End: Bush Hog, 9 p.m., \$5.

★**Exit/In:** WRVU Benefit featuring Apollo Up, Character, The Lone Official, The Mattoid, 9 p.m.

The Five Spot: The Pickled Beats, 9 p.m.

Mercy Lounge: Old Union, Foggy Bottom, Half Brass, 8 p.m.

The Muse: Flesh Machine, Seven Days Divided, Rockbot, 7 p.m., \$5.

Springwater: Brandi Haile

and Space Plans, Bells for Aida, Cortney Tidwell, 10:30 p.m.

The Sutler: Secret Gossip, Friday's Child, 9 p.m., \$5.

3rd & Lindsley: The Massacoustics, 8 p.m., \$7.

12th & Porter: The Coal Men, 10 p.m.

Wall Street: The Features, SJ & the Props, 9:30 p.m., \$5.

Windows on the Cumberland: Guy Smiley Blues Exchange, 10 p.m.

Saturday, April 10

All American Sports Grill: The Max Band, 10 p.m., \$3.

Blue Sky Court: Big Jim Slade, Gear Driven, Overzealous, 8:30 p.m., \$5.

Boro Bar & Grill: Flesh Machine, Seven Days Divided, Rockbot, 9 p.m., \$5-7.

The End: Tobin Sprout, The Hot Pipes, My Brother, 9 p.m., \$8.

Mercy Lounge: Julie Miller, Buddy Miller, Sandra McCracken, 9 p.m.

The Muse: Fall With Me, Shepherd of Fools, Nadina Das, Hobbs End, 7 p.m., \$5.

★**Red Rose:** Stevie Binge & the Fork Hunts, Missile Command, Casio Casanova, Mostly Robot, 9 p.m., \$5.

Springwater: Working Stiffs' Jamboree, 8 p.m.

The Sutler: Matt Ramsey, 9 p.m., \$5.

3rd & Lindsley: Grand Revue, 8 p.m., \$7.

Wall Street: August Christopher, 9 p.m., \$5.

Windows on the Cumberland: Mellow Down Easy, Nu Planet, 10 p.m.

A ★ denotes the official [flash] pick of the night. ★



**Political correctness
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Grimey's Top Sellers

1. **Iron & Wine** *Our Endless Numbered Days*
2. **TV On The Radio** *Desperate Youth*
3. **The Features** *The Beginning EP*
4. **Snow Patrol** *Final Straw*
5. **Franz Ferdinand** *Franz Ferdinand*
6. **Sigur Ros** *Ba Ba Ti Ki Di Do*
7. **Bob Dylan** *Bootleg Series Volume 6: LIVE 1964*
8. **Bright Eyes/Britt Daniel** *Home Volume 4*
9. **The Vines** *Winning Days*
10. **Deerhoof** *Milk Man*

Compiled by Grimey's Record Shop owner, Doyle Davis. Grimey's is located at 2825 Bransford Avenue in Nashville.

WRLT Playlist

- 1 **Sting** "Sacred Love"
- 2 **Ryan Adams** "Burning Photographs"
- 3 **Big Head Todd & The Monsters** "Imaginary Ships"
- 4 **John Eddie** "If You're Here When I Get Back"
- 5 **Melissa Etheridge** "Breathe"
- 6 **Five For Fighting** "100 Years"
- 7 **Jet** "Are You Gonna Be My Girl"
- 8 **Damien Rice** "Cannonball"
- 9 **Joss Stone** "Fell In Love With A Boy"
- 10 **Norah Jones** "Sunrise"

Compiled by Kieth Coes, WRLT 100.1 music director. WRLT Lightning 100 is Nashville's progressive radio station.

WMTS Playlist

- 1 **The Features** *The Beginning EP*
- 2 **Strongbad** *Strongbad Sings*
- 3 **Rainer Maria** *Anyone In Love With You Already Knows*
- 4 **Clouddead** *Ten*
- 5 **Valley of the Giants** *S/T*
- 6 **Walkmen** *Bows & Arrows*
- 7 **Aireline** *Winter Song EP*
- 8 **All State Champion** *Is It Nothing To You*
- 9 **Toots And the Maytals** *True Love*
- 10 **Black Keys** *The Big Come Up*

Compiled by Jozeph Ash, WMTS 88.3 music director. WMTS is MTSU's student run radio station.



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